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THURSDAY, MARCH 11TH, 2010

FOUR PER CENT RISE FOR COUNCILLORS

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

VALE councillors are to receive a four per cent pay rise this year – an increase that will be automatic after a local government panel made its annual recommendations.

The annual exercise involves the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, which has set a new level of allowances for councillors in Wales.

The rise in allowances recommended by the panel will be accepted, because the Vale Council decided some time ago to accept its decisions.

A Vale Council spokesman explained: "In previous consideration of a report by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, the council decided to adhere to their determinations in relation to members' allowances and expenses, in order to avoid the position where members were deciding their own allowances."

The remuneration panel is planning to raise councillors' basic allowance by more than £500 – from £13,356 to £13,868 – a rise of 3.98 per cent.

There are also going to be changes to the special allowances for posts such as Leader and cabinet members.

The Leader, Coun Gordon Kemp, will see his allowance rise to £38,139. That will be added to his basic salary of £13,868.

The deputy leader's allowance will be £22,537, and cabinet members will receive £17,336 .

Those councillors who chair scrutiny committees, and also the chairpersons of the development control, licensing, and audit committees will receive £9,708.

The leader of the largest opposition group will also receive £9,708

Finally, the leaders of other political groups will get £4,161 – provided their groups constitute no less than 10 per cent of the council membership – meaning that a group will need six members.

The panel also pronounces on pensions, and this has led to an interesting situation in neighbouring Bridgend, where Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is one of only two Welsh councils not to have joined the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The panel says that councillors aged under 75 should be eligible to join the scheme, and that their required contribution rate – should they decide to do so – is currently six per cent of salary.

However, the employer's contribution would be more than three times that, at 21 per cent.

Bridgend is likely to vote to sign up – with the final choice being left to each councillor.

Bridgend residents have been told that the likely take up rate is 30 per cent, meaning that the council will have to find an extra £60,000.

However, if the Vale Council is a guide line, that figure may be an under-estimate.

A Vale Council spokesman explained: "The decision to allow Vale of Glamorgan councillors to join the Local Government Pension Scheme was made by the council on December 7, 2005, in line with the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

"Currently 47 per cent of the Vale's councillors are in the scheme."

£25,000 engineering scheme under way at The Limes cemetery

by TIM CHAPMAN

A SCHEME costing around £25,000 to relocate part of a sewer in Cowbridge will ensure that a local cemetery looks "as picturesque as possible".

The Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Jon Harris, said he was pleased to see work under way at The Limes cemetery.

He explained: "It has been quite a battle in terms of planning and money.

"The work is costing approximately £25,000 and has been funded by the Vale Council cash grants scheme and Town Council reserves.

"The sewer is being diverted round the edge of the burial space."

The sewer serves Ysgol Iolo Morganwg and Y Bont Faen, and the neighbouring streets.

ABOVE:
Work to relocate the sewer at The Limes cemetery will take five weeks.

It is 'unadopted', which means it is not owned by a local authority and is the responsibility of the householders who use it.

It currently takes a diagonal path through part of the cemetery set aside for future burials.

One of the council's major considerations was that if the sewer was left in place, there was a risk that if a repair was needed in the future, the cemetery would have to be dug up.

Coun Harris pointed out that if the sewer had stayed in its current location, the look of the burial area would have also been affected.

"If it had remained, there would have been a nine foot strip across the cemetery," he explained.

The work, which will take five weeks, and is being carried out by Bamond Civil Engineering, should mean the town will have the maximum number of plots available and will maintain an attractive appearance.

The cemetery land at The Limes was purchased for town use in the 1920s.

PERMANENT RESIDENTS ALLOWED TO STAY...

Victory for Bryneithin care home campaign!

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

THE Keep Bryneithin Open Group has claimed victory in its campaign to keep open the Vale's specialist dementia care home.

It means long-term residents such as 89-year-old Arthur Samuel, who recently received his Veteran's Badge for service with the Rifle Brigade in World War Two, will see out his days at the facility in Dinas Powys that has become a second home to him.

A legal challenge by the residents' relatives on the basis of "anticipatory breach of contract" led to the Vale Council making the decision to shelve closure. The residents had signed contracts agreeing to a home for life.

A decision to close the home had been made by the Vale Council on December 2.

Mr Samuel's daughter Margo Farbrace, the chairwoman of the campaign group, said: "We're ecstatic and have fought hard for this.

"I'm delighted my father can stay in the place he calls home with the quality of life he has become used to. The manager and the staff are like family."

Mrs Farbrace said it would be "shortsighted" if the council failed to use any available beds for other people suffering from dementia or for respite care.

Sylvia Bowen, whose 86-year-old mother Kathleen is a long term resident, could hardly believe that there had been an eleventh hour reprieve: "For my mother it is going to be a new lease of life. It is as if a huge weight has been lifted – all the relatives have been worried sick."

Bryneithin is the only specialist home for people with dementia in the Vale.

Jane Hutt, the Vale's AM, also pointed out that the council should make full use of the facility.

"I know how stressful this has been for the Bryneithin residents and their relatives.

"They will now be assured that their loved ones will not be moved from the home they have lived in with the support of their families and the long serving staff.

"I hope the council will consider using Bryneithin for temporary and respite residents to meet the widespread need for these services in the Vale, while new services are developed."

The Keep Bryneithin Open Group protesting on Friday.

The residents have been told that Bryneithin will be kept open in line with Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales standards.

The Plaid Cymru candidate for the Vale, Dr Ian Johnson, welcomed the news but said he was disappointed when it was made clear at a scrutiny meeting on Monday evening that the council would continue with plans to close the facility in the long run.

He said: "That Bryneithin will stay open for as long as the current residents are living there is fantastic news for the residents and their families and I must congratulate the Keep Bryneithin Group for their persistence and hard work on this issue."

Philip Evans, the director of social services for the council, said: "Upon legal advice regarding a potential challenge to the council on a contractual issue, the council has confirmed that Bryneithin Residential Care Home will remain open for the current permanent residents should they wish to remain.

"Ty Dyfan (in Barry) will continue to be an option for the current residents and will remain available to them unless it is fully occupied or unable to meet their needs.

"However, the council will close Bryneithin to, and not admit, any new residents, including temporary or respite."

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Van driver's rant at horse riders in a Vale lane

I HAVE been riding horses on the roads around Dinas Powys for 20 years and the vast majority of drivers are considerate, responsible and courteous, particularly those who drive larger vehicles and are aware that horses may be scared by them.

I would like to thank those drivers and let them know their consideration is always appreciated.

However, my recent encounter with the driver of a transit van has forced me to write this letter.

May I reassure the driver that despite the assumption he made during his rant towards me, that my horse is fully insured and has (along with cyclists and pedestrians) every right to be on the roads.

Moreover, should he choose to vent his anger at perfectly law-abiding people in future, maybe he would be best advised not to do it from a van with his company's name on the side.

I certainly will not be recommending his company to anybody I know and will be writing to his managers.

My 'crime' to deserve this rant was to ask him politely, with the correct hand signals as designated by the highway code, to slow down as he approached a friend and me on a particularly narrow section of the lanes in St Andrews Major at considerable speed.

Both riders and horses were wearing high visibility clothing – the horses are very well behaved in traffic and, luckily, they did not react.

However, horses are unpredictable and others may not have been so tolerant.

He was clearly in a hurry as the five seconds that slowing down for us would have added to his journey was obviously too much.

Why then did he stop for at least a minute to hurl abuse at me and question my right to be on the road?

I can only hope, for his customers' sake, that his attitude towards his work is not the same as he displays towards fellow road users.

Ann Miller,
Dinas Powys

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Dogs v horses: humans can be disgusting, too!

IT'S not often that I laugh out loud at letters published in newspapers, but last week there were two letters (in The GEM) that gave me more than just a good chuckle.

I have been following the ongoing debate concerning dog fouling and horse manure, but it has now got to the point of being totally ridiculous.

I'm not sure what planet letter writer Leanne Sokolski is living on, but I can only assume it's one where thousands of people don't use horse manure as a fertiliser for their crops.

Perhaps she should warn all the people on earth the dangers of using manure to fertilise their flowers and vegetables. Given that we've been using it for hundreds of years for this purpose, as well as building material for houses, I'm surprised people aren't dropping like flies...

You would think, in a logical world, the people who find horse manure so offensive would be pleased to see the implementation of more bridle paths, as it would mean manure-free paths and roads.

As for the views of Irene Jones, well, words fail me.

Personally, I would never share a lolly with my dog, but is that reason to ban all dog owners from public places?

There are plenty of things that humans do in public that I find disgusting.

Should we ban these people from public places, too?

It is, once again, a case of the anti-dog and anti-horse brigade trying to impose small-minded, ill-informed views on the general public, and causing nothing but grievance for the responsible owners.

Sian Lewis,
Dinas Powys

Airborne Forces in World War 2

AS part of the forthcoming events in and around the Pier Head Building in Cardiff on National Armed Forces Day, on Saturday, June 26, I am looking to put on a display of photographs and artefacts of local men who served with the Airborne Forces in World War Two.

If veterans or relatives across the Vale of Glamorgan have any information and photographs that they would like to see displayed as part of my tribute to these men, please contact me on: ninian27@*btinternet.com* or telephone 07708 255295.

Dr Jonathan Hicks,
Barry

'If only we had joined the Euro!'

LETTER writer Eluned Parrott (The GEM, March 4) observes that "large single investments from overseas businesses ... don't necessarily bring sustainable long-term employment".

In my opinion, they would have done if Britain had joined the Euro in 2002 – as the Liberal Democrats urged at the time.

However, the continuing negative attitude of the Conservative Party toward continental Europe is enough to deter any sustainable overseas investments in the UK.

A Conservative government would bring a new recession to Wales.

There is a solution to the weak economy in this country, and that is to elect Vince Cable as Chancellor of the Exchequer!

Roger Everest,
Pontyclun

'Let's all be tolerant of one another...'

IN response to Ms Sololski's remark in The GEM on March 4, I would just like to say, as an owner of three dogs and one horse, yes I am privileged to own my animals.

My horse is insured (cost is more than my car and includes third party liability) vaccinated and routinely wormed; all this costs money.

I am privileged, but to fund all this, I do not go on holiday, drink or smoke. I work full time in a quite demanding job; the dogs are walked twice daily and anything they deposit is picked up.

Horse manure has always been in demand for gardens and allotments. In years gone by, folk would have followed the horse and cart for the manure the horse deposited (very good for rhubarb, I'm told!).

Like V Pritchard, I agree there are very few places to ride horses, and dogs have as much right to be on the beach during the open season. So why can't we all not get along?

There will always be irresponsible owners of dogs and horses – nothing and no-one will ever change that.

If they could change, there would be far fewer cases of animal cruelty.

So please, let's learn to be more tolerant of each other – live and let live.

Carol Watts,
Barry

More bridleways are the answer

THERE are over 400 horses in the Dinas/Wenvoe area alone, and hundreds more in the rest of the Vale.

Their owners make a significant contribution to the local economy!

If we, which includes many children, had more bridleways (none of which is exclusive), we wouldn't have to ride elsewhere and offend the anti-horse brigade.

Mrs V Pritchard,
Dinas Powys

WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS?
Email: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 18)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
11 Thur	03.20	7.5	15.58	7.6
12 Fri	04.18	8.1	16.49	8.2
13 Sat	04.59	8.6	17.26	8.7
14 Sun	05.36	9.0	18.02	8.9
15 Mon	06.16	9.3	18.31	9.3
16 Tues	06.47	9.5	19.03	9.4
17 Wed	07.17	9.6	19.33	9.5
18 Thur	07.48	9.7	20.12	9.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide tablespecific to their location.

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SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
Mental Health Helpline:
Freephone **0800 132 737**
MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan
01446 730792 or www.mindinthevale.org.uk
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RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0808 800 5000.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support - Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

CITIZENS' ADVICE

At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Drop in Mon-Fri (not Weds) 9.30am - 4.30am (Wed 11am-6pm); at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road 9.30am - 11.30am Mon and Fri. Telephone advice 0845 120 3756. *Further information www.adviceguide.org.uk*

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Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999.
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Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 700111. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline, 01446 700111.
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The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.
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Help for Heroes gets boost from Ystradowen pub

ABOVE: A barbecue was held for the hardy souls prepared to venture outside.

PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK

A 'Help for Heroes' event at The White Lion public house in Ystradowen raised more than £3,000 for the appeal.

The charity has been formed to help those who have been injured in recent conflicts such as in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The event was organised by Tracey Bell and Mark Griffiths who run The White Lion.

Live entertainment was provided by the band 'Off the Cuff', and there was a casino, an auction and a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses including Etcetera, Pocketful of Presents, Huddarts, Farthings, Trio Brasserie, The Copthorne Hotel, Sizzling Swine, Cowbridge fresh farm meats, Duke of Wellington and Rogers.

It is understood the evening has raised in excess of £3,000.

LEFT: Those who attended the evening also took part in a raffle, an auction and were entertained by band 'Off the Cuff."

Car dealer is accused of murder

A Vale second-hand car dealer, who is accused of murdering a man by stabbing him twice through the heart in a Barry street, told a Cardiff Crown Court jury: "I didn't deliberately plunge that knife into him."

John Chivers (30) who had a leg amputated below the knee following a car crash, said that what happened was a "tragic accident".

He also said: "I didn't intend causing him serious injury and I didn't intend to kill him".

Chivers, of Cardiff Road, Barry, who at the time was staying in Columbus Close, where the incident occurred on the night of August 3, has pleaded not guilty to the murder of 41-year-old Paul Michael Jones, a married man.

Prosecutor Michael Chambers said the two men were involved in a dispute outside the home of Chivers' girlfriend, Dominique Fitzgerald, and seconds after obtaining a carving knife from her kitchen, he stabbed him twice.

In evidence, Chivers said that Mr Jones, known as Jonah, delivered the first punch and he told him to calm down,

Chivers said he was six foot two inches tall, and Mr Jones five feet five.

He became worried when another man punched him as Mr Jones said: "You are ******* dead."

Things turned nasty, he continued, when Mr Jones obtained an iron bar and, to scare him off, said Chivers, he took the knife which he jabbed at him to keep him away.

He said he didn't feel the knife come into contact with Mr Jones, and first realised what he had done when he fell in the road saying "You have stabbed me, you ****"

Said Chivers :"I didn't know what to do, it was horrible. I didn't want anything like this to happen to me and my world fell apart."

He said he left the scene, obtained heroin and next remembered waking up in hospital.

What happened, he said, made him feel devastated and he didn't regard Mr Jones with contempt and as "rubbish".

The case continues.

Local mum's battle inspires the local community spirit!

by TIM CHAPMAN

ABOVE: Gerda Teague, a shaved Andy Parks and Julie Parks have proved that life's trials can be turned round and be a force for good.

WHEN a Vale woman had to undergo a fierce course of chemotherapy and learned she was going to lose her hair, it set off a chain of events that proved that in the darkest moments the good can still shine through.

For Julie Parks (47) who won a battle with breast cancer four and a half years ago, it seemed a cruel twist when she was diagnosed with the disease a second time, but the Parks family of St Athan are made of stern stuff.

Julie explained: "Due to the course of chemotherapy, I am going to lose my hair, and my husband Andy, who knew that it would be hard for me, decided to support me.

"He said: 'If you're losing your hair, then I am too!' and shaved his head.

"He is going to remain bald until the end of my treatment in May."

Not only that, Julie's 82-year-old mother Gerda and Andy, keen to do something to support those going through a similar experience to Julie, have combined to raise more than £1,100 for Macmillan Cancer Care.

"My mother Gerda canvassed the estate where we live, which includes Rectory Drive, Tathan Crescent, St Michael's Close and Roberts Close, to raise funds.

"Steve Jenkins, the staff and customers at Londis, along with Chapel Surgery staff and patients in the village also helped, and Gerda raised more than £550. That's not bad for a nearly 83-year-old!

"Andy also set up a website and the donations from that have meant that the original target has been well and truly exceeded.

""I'd like to thank the local community for being so supportive."

Julie's son Chris, and his girlfriend Kate, both 22, plan to take part in the Cardiff half marathon on behalf of Macmillan this summer, and Chris said:

"The family hoped to get about £300 – we never expected to get to more than £1,100!"

Julie found out that the breast cancer had returned during an annual check up. Fortunately, because the diagnosis was quick the cancer has been contained, and Julie's treatment at Velindre and the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend is going according to plan.

Julie, who is St Athan born and bred, talks philosophically of the experience: "I think of the cancer returning being rather like a naughty child who you've put to bed, but who gets up again and you have to tell them to go back to bed."

The current total raised so far is £1,123.60.

If anyone wishes to support the Parks' family they can make a donation a t www.justgiving.com/andy-parks.

Event raises £1,000 for Haiti victims

THE St David's Day concert at the United Free Church in Cowbridge has raised well over £1,000 towards helping the victims of the Haiti Earthquake.

At a well-attended evening concert, Cor Meibion Y Machlud entertained the audience with a variety of traditional Welsh choral pieces.

Three soloists also made outstanding musical contributions: Hanna Davies's unaccompanied renditions of 'Ar Lan y Mor' and 'Da'chw Nghariad' were warmly applauded.

Carol Phillips played two Greig piano favourites and a specially written work by local composer Trevor Roberts (Carol also accompanied the choir throughout the evening).

Finally, the choir's conductor, Eifion G Davies laid down his baton and sang, unaccompanied, 'Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn'.

This was particularly appropriate as Eifion,who has only recently taken over the musical directorship of the choir, comes from near Llangeinor, Maesteg.

He studied music and voice at the Welsh College of Music and Drama and now teaches at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr, Cardiff.

At the end of the concert, a collection among the audience raised over £500, which was in addition to the funds already collected from ticket sales.

Heather Weddel expressed her thanks to the choir and soloists, and to the members of the church, who had worked hard towards the success of the evening.

All were invited to enjoy the home-made traditional Welsh cawl supper – cheese and Welsh cakes later provided by the church members in the hall.

RK

Sing for your supper!

A SINGING workout, organised by Cowbridge Choral Society, is taking place on Saturday, March 27 at Our Lady and St Illtyd Parish Centre, Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major, from 10am-4pm.

The day will be led by Kate Woolveridge, one of Wales' leading mezzo soprano singers. This is a free of charge open event for all who enjoy singing. The day will include vocal techniques and some choral singing.

For further information, telephone 01656 865727, 01446 794883 or email: wendy.meredith@btinternet.com

Lions to hold three events in Cowbridge

THE Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club will be descending on Cowbridge on March 20 – to hold three events at the same time in the High Street and Lesser Hall.

In the Lesser Hall they will be holding a book sale to raise funds for Lions' charities, as well as a diabetes screening session, which will be supported by a street collection in aid of Diabetes UK.

A spokesman for the club said that this was the first time the club has tried combining two of its most popular events into one session, with the aim of increasing the numbers of people being screened for diabetes, along with raising more funds for the club's charitable donations.

The diabetes sessions are run by qualified nurses and are completely confidential. If the results are positive, the individual concerned will be advised to see their GP for further investigations.

Congratulations go to the Llantwit Major Football Club's under-14s team, who won the Lions District Cup for the second year running. With an emphatic 4-1 win over Frome, they move onto the next round of the Lions 5 Nations Cup.

On Friday, March 26, the Lions will be holding their annual pensioners' party in Llanilltud Fawr Primary School, Ham Lane, Llantwit Major. This is an all-ticket event and they can be obtained from the Pensioners Club, Sloane & Co, and Age Concern (all in Llantwit Major).

For further information, including times of events, visit the Lions website at www.llantwitmajorandcowbridgelions.org.uk or look out for the posters around Cowbridge and Llantwit Major.

DE

PACT change

THE next Cowbridge PACT meeting will take place at 7.30pm on March 15 at Cowbridge Town Hall chambers.

Cowbridge Neighbourhood Beat Manager, Police Constable Mark Goulding explained that the change has been necessary due to the impending closure of the council office on Eastgate.

Topics to be discussed at the meeting include an up-date on the current PACT priorities, namely speeding traffic on Penlan Road, from the Downs to Aberthin and road safety in St Hilary for pupils walking to the local school.

From humble beginnings...

LLANHARRY WI NEWS

AT the March meeting, two representatives from Waitrose spoke about the history of the company, which apparently was founded by Wallace Waite, Arthur Rose and David Taylor, who opened a small grocery shop in West London in 1904.

The business was acquired by the John Lewis Partnership in 1937, and the first Waitrose supermarket was opened in 1955. Each member was given 'a bag for life' containing various Waitrose literature.

Janet Lewis thanked the speakers and tea and Welsh cakes were provided by Vi Hall and Ros Griffiths. The competition – a novelty chocolate item was won by Vi Hall.

Members were reminded the next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 23. **JR**

Art society compiling a history for golden jubilee

THE Cowbridge Art Society is celebrating its golden jubilee year with a series of events.

Recently, members visited the Van Gogh exhibition at the Royal Academy in London.

Other events are to take place throughout the year and include a demonstration on May 6 by the celebrated Swansea-based artist Valerie Ganz at Old Hall, and an illustrated lecture on May 13: 'The Art and Architecture of Le Corbusier' by Art Society member Dr John Phillips. Both events are open to anyone interested.

A celebration lunch for artists and demonstrators to acknowledge their vital contribution will be held on May 20, and further activities are planned for the autumn to include a 50th anniversary exhibition of paintings by members of the society.

Members are also preparing a "History of Cowbridge Art Society', structured to cover each of the five decades since its formation.

There is a dearth of information covering the first two decades, particularly names of founder members, and so the society seeks the help of local communities to recall its early activities and members.

The society is asking owners of pictures produced by CAS over the 50-year period if these can be borrowed and digitally photographed for possible publication in the history; also group photographs of members on visits to galleries, at art courses, or on overseas journeys.

Mrs Ray Howells is to co-ordinate any information GEM readers may have. Please contact her on 01446 772760, or by email at r_howells@hotmail.co.uk

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SKIERS RACE ON TO THE MEDALS PODIUM IN SWITZERLAND...

Ice to see you, to see you ice – as pupils pound the slopes in Meiringen!

A and B teams.

Scott Sanger en route to fourth place junior, second slalom.

THE British School Boys Races were held recently at Meiringen, Switzerland.

Cowbridge entered an A and B team for this annual event. Entries for the teams were paid for by the parents for this five-day event.

The boys travelled with their parents to the resort to compete on the Sunday in the dual slalom event. This is a knockout event with four boys competing in each team. Competing in the B team were Harri Hitchcock, Matthew Goodlad, Jamie Griffiths and Jack Phillips.

They were drawn against No 1 seeds Reeds of Surrey, and did very well against the British squad members, but were knocked out in round one.

The A team consisted of Scott Sanger, Sam Stephens, George Spill and William Tinkler. They were against St Pauls of London in round one and won comfortably.

In round two against Bedford College, a fall by one of the Cowbridge quartet left too much for the anchor man Sam Stephens to catch up and were knocked out.

The following day it was the giant slalom course with 44 gates. New member of the team Jack Phillips experienced his first G S race and performed well to record an excellent time of 1m 10.43 secs. Matthew Goodlad and Harri Hitchcock were in the children two age group, both recording 1m 10.80 secs and 1m 12.32 secs in race two, a top 50 finish.

All racers had two races over the day with a finishing list of 176 racers.

The other members of the team competed at Junior one and Junior two age groups. Scott Sanger, William Tinkler and Jamie Griffiths finished in the top 30. Sam Stephens and George Spill had two excellent races to finish overall fifth and seventh respectively.

For the team event, racers had to complete all four races over the two days in two disciplines, an achievement in itself.

Day three was the slalom, set over 38 gates in very poor conditions with low cloud, snow and extremely cold. Sam Stephens led off with an outstanding run in race one, finishing in 38.66 secs in silver medal position.

This was followed closely by Scott Sanger in 13th place (47.15 secs). Jack Phillips had an exceptional race, finishing in a strong 47.49 secs.

Many skiers on the slalom course took tumbles and climbed back up to go through gates or missed gates by mistake and were disqualified. The team had to finish three out of four races in both to compete for the team event. With this in mind, George Spill completed his race on course one with a slower time, but kept the team in the competition.

In course two, Sam Stephens kept up the pressure with another fantastic time of 45.50 seconds to finish in joint second overall in the slalom competitions. With the help of the dependable Scott Sanger and William Tinkler, the team completed the course to score points in the team event.

It was now time to wait for the presentation evening to see if the school had done enough to reach the podium. Up against all the other public schools, Cowbridge had held their own and were announced in bronze medal team position behind Millfield and winners Reads of Surrey, who specialise in skiing.

What a fantastic set of results, with and individual silver medal for Sam Stephens, a fourth place age group for Scott Sanger and bronze for the team out of 48 starting teams.

A big thank you go to parents of the boys, whose support financially and on the slopes made the event possible. Also to the school for allowing the time off during their studies. Let's hope that the future of skiing teams in school will continue to flourish.

Individual results:

Giant slalom	**Race 1**	**Race 2**
(B team)		
Mathew Goodlad	2.01.16	1.10.80
Harri Hitchcock	1.17.02	1.12.32
Jack Phillips	Disq	1.10.43
Jamie Griffiths	1.21.15	1.16.63
(A team)		
William Tinkler	1.16.34	1.10.44
Scott Sanger	1.10.53	1.10.19
George Spill	1.04.66	1.02.30
Sam Stephens	1.04.01	1.01.70
Slalom		
(B team)		
Harri Hitchcock	53.71	Disq
Mathew Goodlad	56.20	Disq
Jack Phillips	47.49	1.29.35
Jamie Griffiths	54.90	1.01.72
(A team)		
William Tinkler	Disq	58.97
George Spill	58.49	59.12
Scott Sanger	47.15	53.04
Sam Stephens	38.66	45.50

Sam Stephens won second overall silver medal in slalom.

The skiing team.

ABOVE: Mathew Goodlad is dramatically silhouetted against the snow..

PUPILS PROSPER IN CHESS COMPETITION

RIGHT: The pupils with their trophies.

FOUR players, Christian Prosser (year-7), Katie Trehane (year-7), George Trehane (year-9) and Adam Howell (year-11) from Cowbridge Comprehensive school recently represented it in the Welsh schools chess championships and came third.

Adam Howell could only turn up for the last two rounds after receiving a bye for the first, so it was left to the rest of the team to rack up the points.

They played extremely well with a defaulted board and Christian Prosser on board one for two rounds, winning a round and drawing one with wins from each player.

It came down to the last round where Katie Trehane finished off her opponent and won her game quickly, followed by a well-needed draw from Christian Prosser and a win from Adam Howell on board one to seal third place

This was the first time the team had entered the Welsh Schools championships for Cowbridge and are pleased to come out with third place and can surely excel next year.

AH

Model demonstration of beauty products

YSTRADOWEN WI NEWS

THE March meeting took place in the village hall when there was another excellent turnout to welcome speaker Valerie Scott, manageress of Lloyds Pharmacy in Cowbridge.

She presented a range of beauty products, assisted by her colleague Helen Burgess, her model for the evening.

She began by demonstrating the morning routine for cleansing and toning the face. This should be done each morning to keep the skin clean and healthy but need not take up too much time.

The next step is the daily makeup and Val applied a light foundation cream using a foundation brush and upward movements. This was following by a light application of a bronzer, followed by a blusher; then came the eye make-up – a light eye shadow and mascara.

Vice-president Margaret Skinner thanked Val and Helen.

Celebrating Welsh way of life at Llangan Primary School!

ABOVE: harps in harmony.

Two proud patriots.

ST David's Day at Llangan Primary School was a musical extravaganza with pupils from nursery to year-6 singing, reciting, dancing and playing the harp during their Eisteddfod.

With the school hall full of parents, grandparents and friends of Llangan Primary, everybody was thoroughly impressed by the children's celebration of Wales and our culture.

"We are so proud of all the children that we have here in Llangan Primary, and are so grateful for all the support that we are shown by our community," said Mrs Noyes, the headteacher.

The children played many traditional and modern pieces on the harp, sang songs celebrating Wales especially written by Mrs Noyes, with Ella Jones and Erin Challacombe singing solos.

Years 1, 2, 5 and 6 performed Welsh folk dances and years 1, 2, 3 and 4 recited poetry in Welsh.

The children worked very hard on their competition entries for handwriting, creative writing, art and making 3D Welsh dragons and Welsh-themed hats.

STEVE WILLIAMS
(Deputy head)

Race night boosts Haiti fund

LLANMAES social committee and the Blacksmiths Arms pub are celebrating the success of their recent joint race night.

With a total of eight races, each one being sponsored by a local business, bets were placed on a choice of eight horses in each race.

A good start was made with the first race, and as momentum gathered, tension and excitement could be felt in the room as betting became more frenzied.

The winnings were split 60/40 between winning tickets and the Haiti Disaster fund. Due to the success of the races, it was decided to run one last random race, which took bets of over £80.

All winners of that race put their winnings towards the Haiti fund.

A total of £297 was raised for Haiti and a really enjoyable evening was had by all.

A big thank you to all our sponsors: Filco, Feed n Seed, Rio, LM Sports, Cloggs and Christopher Williams Optometrists, all of Llantwit Major; Jensen Sports of Cowbridge and the Blacksmiths Arms.

DC

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St David's Day tradition of music and song thrives at Iolo Morganwg and Y Bont Faen

LOCAL primary schools celebrated a traditional St David's Day last week, and local photographer Mike Wilcock was out and about, capturing the excitement and enthusiasm of the pupils as they enjoyed their day!

ABOVE: A cheerful group at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg.

ABOVE: Iolo Morganwg pupils out in the sunshine.

ABOVE: More smiles at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg.

ABOVE: All dressed up at Y Bont Faen.

ABOVE: Y Bont Faen pupils prepare to perform a folk dance.

ABOVE: Eisteddfod prize-winning pupils at Y Bont Faen.

Tears (of joy) as Vale cycling duo reach destination Down Under!

AFTER 23 days cycling, covering 2,419km across North and South Island, Maria Leijerstam from Bonvilston, and Tori James from Pembrokeshire, arrived at Bluff on the southernmost tip of New Zealand.

With a maximum speed of 73kph, the pair have certainly not taken it easy. However, they have had breaks during the journey to enjoy what they describe as amazing Kiwi hospitality.

"Rounding the corner and catching the first glimpse of the sign at Bluff brought tears to our eyes," said Maria. "We had done it!

"Champagne popping, we carried out our standard Welsh flag dance ritual and people quizzed us on our journey, and responded with a round of applause."

Among the highlights of the trip, Maria lists the simplicity of life on a bike with only two panniers, sunshine when it's winter at home, big mountain passes, stunning coast line and dramatic gorges and meeting hundreds of fab people.

Add to that, jumping out of a plane at 12,000ft! and the fact that in New Zealand you don't have to queue for anything.

There were some tough moments too, mainly to do with the sudden swings in temperature.

"We had freezing feet and numb toes in Lindus Valley and a driving head wind leading to Queenstown that stopped us in our tracks – even going down hill!

"Our tent leaked and we woke up wet and freezing cold on more than one occasion, but these were minor inconveniences on a great journey," Maria reports.

Maria Leijerstam.

Speaker tells story of the channel paddle steamers

ON March 6, members of St Nicholas WI met at the hall in the village where speaker Mr Alan Thorne gave an address on Bristol Channel paddle steamers.

A visual aid was provided which added interest and helped the audience to follow the information given about the paddle steamers through the years.

During the business meeting, names were taken for the trip to Bath and the American Museum in June.

During the evening, Mrs Ann Roach ran a stall selling Fairtrade produce, which was popular with members.

ST NICHOLAS WI NEWS

Mrs Janet Hayes was the winner of the monthly competition.

The next meeting will be held at St Nicholas Hall on April 8.

New members and guests are most welcome.

EE

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Vale dancers get taste of competition in Bridgend

THE Bridgend Recreation Centre was the venue for the Youth Cymru SuperDance Competition.

Youth dance groups from across south Wales came to compete for a chance to compete at the national final in March.

Rebound Dance Group from Llantwit Youth Centre competed in the junior and intermediate divisions with solos and team dance pieces.

Mia Pegrum (aged 12) performed first with her solo in the junior section, then later as part of 'TRANS-PERFORMERS' with team mates Lucy Grahame (13), Aimee Wilson (13), Menna George (12) and Jenny Massingham (12).

They all performed very well and with confidence for a first competition.

RIGHT: Waiting for their cue.

The intermediate section was represented by Kiera Stanton (13) in the solo division where she came runner-up.

The team 'FORMULA' had dancers Erin Allison (14), Kiera Stanton (13), Morgan Turnball (13) and Sophie George (13) perform as mad scientists.

The judges enjoyed this dance piece, awarding them third place. These four dancers will now compete against dancers from across Wales in Llandrindod Wells on March 6.

Emma Mallam – dance co-ordinator for Motion Control, said: "I would like to congratulate all the dancers for their wonderful performances at their first dance competition, they are all stars!

"I would like to say 'good luck' to them at the national finals, and thanks go to dance leader Liberty Jones for her creativity and hard work with Rebound Dance Group since starting teaching at the end of last year.

Recognition must also be given to the staff of Llantwit Youth Centre, who came and supported the dancers at the competition."

Rebound Dance is part of the Motion Control Dance Programme, which is a partnership initiative between Vibe Experience and the Vale of Glamorgan Youth Service, which provides dance opportunities for young people in the Vale.

For more information, call 01446 733622 or email emma@vibeexperience.com.

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NEWS FROM THE BARRY MEN'S FORUM

Memories of London tube train disaster

THE speaker at the last meeting was Ian Birchenough, a former member of the City of London police force and a current member of the forum.

He took members back in time by vividly reminding them of the horrific train crash that took place 35 years ago at Moorgate tube station, when an underground train due to terminate there ran at headlong speed straight into the buffers deep underground.

He reminded members that the City of London has its own police force in the 'square mile' and the population of this area is only about 3,000 at night, but rises sharply to some two and a half million by day. The City police force at the time of the incident was about 900 strong.

The platforms at Moorgate were at three different levels – with the bottom level, where the crash occurred, being the narrowest, with only a five foot gap between carriage roofs and the tunnel top, in normal conditions.

On the day of the crash, the train approaching the termination buffers, instead of slowing down, was seen to accelerate to about 45 miles per hour before smashing into the end buffers with tremendous force.

The first 15 feet of the first carriage was compacted to practically nothing and an unknown number of passengers, together with the driver, were killed instantly.

Three train carriages deep underground were rammed into a space of 60 feet.

The rescuers in the fire service were faced with an horrendous challenge, in steadily mounting heat and lack of ventilation, to rescue those still living in the wreckage and extract the bodies of the dead.

Surgeons from nearby hospitals performed emergency operations and amputations on the station platform.

For several days Ian, was assigned to the emergency morgue set up nearby and was part of the team that had the grim task of trying to identify the dead crash victims brought in, before coroner`s court action could be taken.

Looking back, Mr Birchenough told the forum, that, in a way, it was fortunate that this tragedy happened on a Friday allowing the rescuers more time to operate over the more quiet week-end. It took from the Friday to the following Wednesday for the driver's body to be reached at the front of the train.

To this day, the cause of the crash remains a mystery and a verdict of 'accidental death' was recorded following the inquest.

Meetings are held every Thursday at 10.30am and new members are welcome.

For further information please telephone 029 2059 4881.

Mac Tanner

Barry Male Voice Choir hands cheque to charity

Handing over the cheque.

A BUSY festive period by the Barry Male Voice Choir included two local charity concerts.

The choir, together with the Barry Island Junior School Choir, provided a memorable evening of seasonal music at Vale Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams' charity concert at Art Central Barry.

The choir's Christmas carol concert featuring the RAF Voluntary Band held at All Saints Church, was held in aid of the Alzheimer's Society and raised £850.

The photograph, above, shows the presentation of a cheque for £850 by Don Surridge, chairman of the Barry Male Voice Choir to Alzheimer Society representatives Helen Lloyd and Pamela Stanley.

During the rebuilding of Holy Trinity Church Hall, Monday and Thursday practices are now held in Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Street, Barry from 7.30pm-9.30pm. Visitors and new members welcome.

GJ

PENARTH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS UPDATE

Photographic tour around scenic Britain

RECENTLY, the Penarth Horticultural Society held its second meeting of the year.

Without having to stir from our seats we were transported on a journey around Britain with professional photographer Nick Jenkins.

Throughout his talk, he shared tips on how to obtain the best photographs.

His slides illustrated the beauty of our countryside in all its guises. We started with the majesty of Welsh landscapes; snow-capped mountains, lonely heather-covered moors and deep, green valleys.

Vast skies were reflected in the lakes of Scotland and mists swirled around forest and fields. Regimented dry stone walls carved their way through the Yorkshire Dales and bluebells rested in the woods around Crickhowell.

There were so many scenes to enjoy and perhaps to evoke memories of visits to these areas in days gone by.

STELLA WELLS

Languages

Year-9 pupils at Bryn Hafren were treated to special languages lessons when French and Spanish Erasmus students came to speak about their home town and region and highlighted the importance of being able to speak another foreign language.

Kiddie Winkling out the mini beasts and critters!

ABOVE: Looking for little critters!

KIDDIEWINKLES Playgroup of Crossway Methodist Church Hall, Court Road, Barry took on I CAN's Chatterbox Challenge with a 'Sponsored Toddle In The Park' on February 24.

The group used magnifying glasses to search under bushes, in the long grass, and around trees for minibeasts! They found snails, slugs, woodlice, worms, spiders and ants.

Back at playgroup, they drew the minibeasts they had seen, and imitated their movements.

The were awarded a certificate and have so far raised about £70 (with sponsors still coming in daily) for I CAN.

Regeneration status for Barry is a boost for Vale

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by ***Jane Hutt AM***
(Minister for Business and Budget)

IT was a brilliant St David's Day boost for the people of Barry to hear the news that the town is to be officially designated by the Welsh Assembly Government as a Strategic Regeneration Area.

After the launch of the Pride in Barry petition three years ago, with successive meetings held in Cardiff Bay and Barry, as well as discussions held with the Vale of Glamorgan Council about needs and priorities, the largest town in Wales, Barry, got what it deserves – a dedicated focus on its economic and social needs through regeneration.

This will be good for Barry and good for the whole of the county, linking up to the St Athan developments to the west and Penarth renewal investment in the east.

The Minister, Jocelyn Davies AM, made a statement to the Assembly about the prospects for Barry with the announcement of SRA status. She stated that the Action Plan that will be developed will focus on three key themes "in order to build and sustain vibrant communities, by breaking the cycle of deprivation, addressing the skills supply and tackling economic inactivity."

We know what that will mean for Barry as we move out of recession, boosting the educational and skills opportunities for our young people in school and college, but also through the apprenticeship schemes supported by government and backed by employers in our Barry and Vale business and industries.

The opportunities for post-16 education and training are lifted by this announcement and will link to the developing prospects for our schools and Barry College.

It is also vital for those who have lost out from the economic downturn and need the benefit of re- training through our React programme and to look for new business opportunities to open doors for new prospects.

The Action Plan will also help to integrate public and private sector developments in housing, linked to energy efficiency and for the refurbishment of older housing in Barry as the housing needs of our young people and families are recognised.

We know that a major challenge will be to link up all parts of the town's shopping and residential areas, the Waterfront, and Barry Island, with the heart of Barry in Kings Square.

The Library and Arts Central provide 21st century facilities which are the best in Wales, with our Barry central library as the hub of leisure, educational, creative and social activity.

This must emanate throughout Barry with that sense of pride and confidence we know will lift the economy, and lift the aspirations of our young people who are receiving the best education in Wales in our Vale schools.

The regeneration of Barry will also enhance the tourist potential as we revive the town with new leisure and recreational activities. Of course, that parting shot of sunny Whitmore Bay in the last episode of 'Gavin and Stacey' watched by millions at Christmas is long lasting!

The crowds will be back as the sun breaks through the wintry months and there are encouraging prospects for the opening up of Barry Island station and the tourist track.

The Vale of Glamorgan has been marketed as 'the Garden of Cardiff' and will feature strongly in the promotions during British Tourism Week which take place from March 15-21 and there will be a major event at Cardiff Airport on March 19 as part of the promotional events. At the event there will be local tourism businesses and a focus on skills and tourism. We should be the tourism centre for Wales in the Vale and Barry can and will play its part.

There is a growing sense of pride and well-being in Barry which is good for our health and well-being, as well as our economy. Also on St David's Day, I went to the launch of the first published works of our most famous composer, Grace Williams, who drew her inspiration from living in Barry.

The many important figures recognised in the recent Pride in Barry Blue Plaque ceremony is a testament to our heritage.

At the Science Week taster workshops at the Dow Corning Nature Centre, pupils from High Street School, Barry were demonstrating their enthusiasm for learning about science as will all the schools taking part this week.

Barry Comprehensive School is celebrating their latest Assembly grant award for a safer route to school scheme.

On Friday this week, I am holding my annual spring Breakfast at Barry College on the theme of 'Celebrating Youth in the Vale of Glamorgan' with the Children's Commissioner, Keith Towler, as our keynote speaker.

I know that will be a memorable occasion with the Vale Youth Forum and School Council representatives from across the Vale enjoying the occasion and the breakfast cooked by Barry College students!

In her statement, the Minister said: "Focusing our regeneration activity on centres that will have the biggest impact on the area, will allow us to deliver the best value for the Welsh pound."

This is what Barry will deliver as a strategic regeneration area in Wales!

VALE AMBULANCE RESPONSE TIMES ARE 'VERY ALARMING'

– says a regional AM

FIGURES showing that the Vale continues to have below average ambulance response times, are "alarming" says Andrew RT Davies, Conservative AM for south Wales central.

"The latest figures, revealed this week, show that 54.4 per cent of ambulances arrived at the scene of an emergency within the target time of eight minutes, below the Welsh average of 58.5 per cent and well below the Assembly Government's target of 65 per cent," he pointed out.

"These figures make for very alarming reading for Vale residents. I am concerned that barely half of ambulances in the Vale are responding to 999 distress calls within eight minutes.

"The Vale continues to perform less well than the Welsh average and response times are worse than neighbouring regions. The Assembly Government's target of 65 per cent is below the target of 70 per cent, which is set for England by the Department for Health.

"I will be seeking to raise this matter with the Health Minister at the earliest opportunity to learn why response times in the Vale are getting worse," he promised.

Andrew RT Davies.

Rugby veterans award a 'trophy' to Vale AM!

BARRY rugby veterans handed the Vale AM Jane Hutt her very own trophy, a pottery mug – when they went 'on tour' to the Senedd recently.

Afterwards, she reported: "It was great to meet the Barry RFC veterans team and to congratulate them on their excellent club, which I am proud to support.

"I was very honoured to receive a lovely pottery mug, which will take pride of place at my Assembly office in Cardiff Bay!"

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School colleagues plan charity trek in China

ABOVE: Jane Clarke and Davina Morgan

TWO intrepid travellers are off to China in October, to raise funds for Save the Children.

Jane Clarke from Barry and Davina Morgan from Penarth are colleagues at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry.

It was through their work together that they came up with the bright idea of going on an adventure, and supporting a cause dear to both their hearts.

With five children between them, Jane and Davina were thrilled to be accepted for the charity trek, which has attracted a 35-strong group from across the UK.

They hope the "trip of a lifetime will make a lifetime of difference to lots of children".

"We're totally self-funded," says mother of three Jane, "so every penny will go to Save the Children, who do amazing work in places like Haiti, and are still working with communities in Thailand five years after the Tsunami."

One of their fundraising projects is a concert in September when Jane, a keen amateur musician, will be singing the *Faure Requiem* in a choir formed especially for the occasion.

Singers from across the Vale will be joined by a professional orchestra from the Welsh College of Music and Drama on Sunday, September 5 to perform one of the most popular works in the choral repertoire.

If you would like to join Vale Voices, come along to the first rehearsal on Sunday, March 21 at 4pm in Parkside Christian Centre, St Bride's Way, Barry (on the edge of Pencoedtre Park).

More details on 01446 744914, or dot.connell@virgin.net

If you want to support to Davina and Jane's fundraising efforts, log on to www.justgiving.com/Davina-Morgan or www.justgiving.com/janeclarke5

DC

Day nursery re-opens

A LOCAL couple has spent six months buying and renovating a day nursery that closed in unexplained circumstances 12 months ago.

It was in February 2009 that parents who used The Children's Day Nursery in George Street on Bridgend Industrial Estate, arrived one Monday to find it closed.

It had been open for nine years, and was one of the first day nurseries to open on an industrial estate.

That was the way things stayed until Simon and Emma Matthews bought the building six months ago, and those six months of hard work modernising the building came to fruition when the couple re-opened the nursery on March 1.

Simon told The GEM: "The response has been very encouraging. There is still a strong demand for a service such as ours, which is close to people's place of work."

The closure has given the new management team the chance to invest in the latest technology, and Simon and Emma point to the intensive CCTV monitoring of each room in the building as a major safety feature.

What's more, anyone nominated by parents to collect a child will have to pass a 'fingerprint test'.

Simon believes that he and Emma are the first day nursery to use this technology, which stores the prints of parents, family and friends – and flags up anyone unauthorised.

Simon added: "That fingerprint system is backed up by a password protection scheme as well!"

For details on The Children's Day Nursery, visit www.thechildrensdaynursery.co.uk

Taste of Welsh culture!

MEMBERS of the Crossway Open Door Community Group recently enjoyed Welsh cakes and music by Welsh choirs.

Anyone wishing to join for a chat and a cuppa, and a variety of themes, should go along to Crossway Church Hall on Wednesdays, between 2pm-3.30pm, where they will be made welcome.

The Children's Day Nursery

Ages 6 weeks - 5 years

Simon and Emma Matthews having run a number of successful after school clubs, have now expanded into this new business venture. They have appointed manageress Danielle Jones who has relocated from Southampton bringing lots of fresh ideas and over ten years experience.

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Short-break foster mum says:

'Barnardo's is brilliant at matching children to the right family'

WHEN a Barry couple were warned by doctors that their youngest child could be born deaf or disabled after mum Francesca caught chicken pox in the early stages of her pregnancy, little did they know it would lead to them looking after more children!

ABOVE: Lively Lewis (centre) loves spending time with Maria, Francesca, Anthony and Joshua.

Anthony and Francesca Price had an anxious six-month wait before Maria was born prematurely, but in a perfectly healthy condition.

Yet, it was this experience that prompted the couple with a new-born baby and an older child Joshua to consider, taking on the challenge of becoming short-break foster carers for children with additional needs.

Francesca explained: "It was the longest six months of our lives but we felt so blessed to have had two healthy children that we wanted to give something back.

"Not long after Maria was born I saw a Barnardo's advert looking for short-break carers, and I spoke to my husband Anthony about it. He used to work for Scope and worked with adults with learning difficulties and he said yes straightaway.

"It took about a year to do the preparation course, and then we were linked to a lovely boy with Down's Syndrome.

"Joshua was three years old at the time and Maria was one and they both adored him, but he is a teenager now and he has moved on to another link family, who have children closer to his age."

But the couple have continued to support Barnardo's

Francesca said: "For the past two years we have been linked to Lewis, who is turning eight and is closer in age to Joshu (also eight) and Maria who is six. He comes to stay with us overnight about every third weekend, and we are hoping to make that into weekend visits where he stays for two nights.

"Lewis is a happy, little chappy and fits in as part of the family. When he comes to stay, we do the usual things we like to do with our own children.

"For example, this week we are going to the cinema and then we might go for a walk in the park. Lewis also loves playing baking, arts and crafts – or going out on the scooter – all the things children enjoy doing.

"I know it sounds selfish, but we have gained a lot from the project. It is really nice to feel that you are helping, but really the child just fits in with your lifestyle so it doesn't really demand any extra time or effort.

"Barnardo's is brilliant in making sure they match a child to a family perfectly.

"Our children have benefited from the Barnardo's family link project, too. Having grown up around children with additional needs, it has given them a different perspective, so they see beyond the disability."

Francesca added: "I think anyone who is considering becoming a short-break carer should definitely go for it. We do build up a good relationship with a link child's parents, so they know they can rely on and trust us. That's important."

• *If you would like to learn more about becoming a link carer for a disabled child, call Barnardo's Cymru Community Links project on 029 2057 1910.*

Pupil mentoring pilot project takes off in Vale

A 10-WEEK mentoring project is being piloted in six schools across the Vale by Community Focused Schools.

Supported by the Vale Council through the Wellbeing Activity Grant Scheme, seven trained volunteers will each work with a pupil, or a small group of pupils, to help motivate them in the classroom.

"The volunteers are all over the age of 50, have been trained and CRB checked and come from various areas of the Vale.

"The primary schools that are involved in this pilot are Cogan Primary, Holton Primary, High Street Primary, Palmerston Primary, Jenner Park Primary and Eagleswell Primary," spokeswoman Lizz Shaw explained.

Mentors work alongside their pupil/small group in the classroom, giving help and support to them in all areas of the school curriculum.

Jane Weldon, a volunteer mentor based at Holton Primary School, said: "I decided to become involved in the mentoring project because I wanted to try and give a child I was involved with the tools to enable them to deal with the current problems they were having.

"Hopefully, they will become more confident in the school environment prior to moving into high school education."

Ann Whitfield, who volunteers at Cogan Primary School, said: "The intergenerational mentoring experience is rewarding, fulfilling and thoroughly enjoyable. The staff and pupils at the school are welcoming and appreciative. I am learning a lot through working with my young partner and through being in the classroom environment."

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Union workers go on strike at Vale court

ABOVE:
Public and Commercial Services Union workers were keen to make their point outside the Vale Magistrates Court in Barry on Monday.

MEMBERS of PCS the (Public and Commercial Services Union) who work at the Vale Magistrates Court in Barry, took part in a national strike on Monday.

The PCS Union said the action was part of a major campaign to fight changes to the civil service compensation scheme.

The union claims the changes would "tear up members' accrued contractual rights and drastically-cut compensation payments in the event of redundancy, whether compulsory or voluntary".

A spokesperson for the PCS group in Barry said they were supporting the broad points being made nationally, but also wanted to highlight the changes locally in the magistrates court.

"Changes to our contracts will mean four of the six administration staff moving to Cardiff or Bridgend.

"It means the service to the public will not be as good and there will be delays in delivering justice."

People were sent over to Barry from Bridgend Magistrates Court to ensure that work continued as normal on Monday.

The Vale MP, John Smith, has met the Justice Minister, Bridget Prentice MP, to lobby her against the proposed move of administration work and staff from the court in Barry.

He said: "I told the Minister that I believe this proposal was made without understanding the full implications of the decision on the efficiency of the courthouse and, crucially, the future standard of service received by court users.

"The proposed move would result in a reduction in the opening hours for the public reception desk. The court's performance rates are above the national average.

"I believe transporting court files every day from Bridgend to Barry, could increase the chances of files being delayed or lost.

"The knock-on effects of the proposal could have a detrimental impact on the courthouse's proud record of service delivery."

He added: "The Minister has agreed to have another look at the proposal."

The Court Service says changes in Barry are "part of an overall exercise to balance workloads and staff numbers across all courts in south east Wales.

Public meets charity fitness challenge in Vale leisure centres

LOCAL people using Vale leisure centres have tackled a fitness challenge – and raised £489 for charity.

"As part of the British Heart Foundation's (BHF) 'Red for Heart' campaign, customers were invited to use various exercise machines to travel the return journey from their chosen Vale leisure centre to the charity's offices in Cardiff," a Vale Council spokesman explained.

Customers in the LifeStyle gym at Penarth had to cover an eight-mile trip, while those at Llantwit Major had to dig deeper and travel 38 miles, via exercise bikes, treadmills, rowers, synchros or wave machines.

BHF (south-east Wales) fundraising volunteer manager, Glenda Meakin, said: "As the nation's heart charity, we depend on donations of time and money to continue our important work of fighting heart disease.

"Thanks to the staff and customers at the Vale leisure centres for all their support."

ABOVE: Glenda Meakin, of the British Heart Foundation (south-east Wales), and Vale Council cabinet member for leisure and tourism, Coun Anthony Ernest, give support to the LifeStyle staff.

Barry College students go for Fairtrade fruit

LEARNERS at Barry College held a 'Fruity Friday' to raise awareness of ethically-sourced alternatives to the usual lunchtime fare, as part of Fairtrade Fortnight.

Foundation Skills students set up a stall in the college's refectory on Friday lunchtime, offering a range of tasty Fairtrade snacks and treats. Muffins, fruit, coffee and special fruit kebabs for dipping in a Fairtrade chocolate fountain were among the delights on offer.

Barry College assistant principal Mark Roberts said: "The college has been a keen backer of Fairtrade for a number of years and it is excellent to see the students get involved in supporting Fairtrade Fortnight in this way."

The stall was inspired by Fairtrade's The Big Swap campaign which encourages people to permanently swap everyday shopping items for ethically sourced alternatives.

The learners were on hand with information about the range of products that now come under the Fairtrade banner, and to explain how easy it is to change over.

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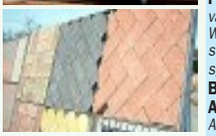

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ARTHUR IS LOOKING FOR A HOME

The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals in its care at the Bridgend Rehoming Centre. ***(Telephone: 01656 725219)***

A spokeswoman reports: Arthur is an 18-month-old medium to large sized Crossbreed.

He is a lively and at times boisterous young dog who will need further basic training. He is unsure on how to react in new situations and needs to learn some manners.

"He mixes with other dogs but again he can get over excited and will need further socialising to help improve his social skills. He is very playful and lots of fun! He is also housetrained.

"He can live with another calm, well-adjusted dog and also with children 11 years and over. He will need an owner who has owned and trained dogs before. He will need plenty of exercise to channel his energy in the right direction."

ARTHUR.

Local student constructing Wales award

SIGHTS SET ON FINAL

BARRY College construction student Kyle Goddard (17) has reached the final of a top competition hosted at the college's Colcot Road site.

In the south-east heat of Construction SkillsCompetition Wales, Kyle was awarded the bronze medal in carpentry.

Kyle will now travel to Bridgend College to battle it out with competitors from across Wales in the final of the competition later this month.

The student triumphed in a contest to find the most talented vocational and trades people in the country. SkillsCompetition Wales involves colleges, Sector Skills Councils and training providers throughout Wales.

All the regional heat competitors in the construction category were given five hours to complete tasks based on real life work in their chosen discipline.

Barry College principal and chief executive, Paul Halstead, said:

"I am delighted to be hosting the south-east Wales heat of the construction competition.

"It is wonderful to see so many students competing to be the best in Wales.

"SkillsCompetition Wales is an excellent way for trainees to benchmark their skills against the best.

"Everyone gains from these competitions – the young people, their trainers and employers.

"I am pleased that Barry College is playing its part and wish the successful competitors every success at the finals in Bridgend," the principal concluded."

Patriotic flags, dragons and Welsh cakes

St David's Day celebrations at KiddieWinkles Playgroup

ABOVE: The youngsters (and adults) are pictured celebrating national day.

CHILDREN and staff at KiddieWinkles Playgroup in Barry celebrated St David's Day by making Welsh flags, colouring 'dragon' pictures, and experimenting with red playdough.

They also sang along to Welsh rhymes and songs, sharing bara brith and Welsh cakes at snack time, dressing in traditional costume and using simple Welsh phrases throughout the morning.

Lots of fun was had by all in attendance and a big 'thank you' to everyone who took part on the national day.

JM

Night rescue call to Barry lifeboat

THE crew of the Barry Dock Lifeboat were called out to a night rescue, after a yacht and its two-man crew were in trouble last Saturday (March 6).

The drama started when HM Coastguard asked the Barry Dock lifeboat to launch at 9.26pm.

The lifeboat was sent to a 33-foot yacht, which had a rope around its propeller and was drifting five-and-a-half miles south of Nash Point.

The yacht and the two on board, who were uninjured, were towed to Penarth Marina by the Barry Dock Lifeboat under the command of the Cox'n, Hugh 'Spud' Davies.

The Penarth Inshore Lifeboat was called to assist with the final part of the rescue.

Gerry Adams, the volunteer lifeboat press officer, said: "This is a not unusual type of rescue. Any craft under power runs the risk of a fouled propeller at any time. Floating ropes are hard to see in the dark."

The Barry Dock Lifeboat returned to station at 3am the next day.

We welcome your news and views. Please email them to: ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

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PLENTY OF ENTHUSIASM AND CREATIVITY ON ST DAVID'S DAY AT LLANILTUD FAWR...

ABOVE and LEFT: St David's Day fun at Llaniltud Fawr.

ST DAVID'S DAY at Llanilltud Fawr Primary and Nursery School was celebrated in traditional fashion, with a very enjoyable concert.

All the children took part in some way – singing, reciting poetry, playing instruments or dancing.

Many of the classes chose traditional Welsh folk songs which they sang enthusiastically.

Throughout the morning, the winners of art, handwriting and creative writing competitions were announced.

The morning culminated with the prestigious 'Chairing of the Bard' ceremony and this year's winner was Bethany Nash, who wrote a very accomplished poem entitled 'Wales'.

Her proud parents were invited to the ceremony and watched the druids, archdruid and flower girls performing the Cadeirio'r Bardd (chairing the bard) dance.

Bethany was presented with a chair, inscribed with her name as 2010 winner, plus a model of a dragon that she is able to keep.

Parents were invited to the afternoon concert and enjoyed not only the performances of the children, but also the Welsh cakes and cups of tea and coffee served by children of the school council during the interval.

There was even an opportunity for them to join in and practise their Welsh!

SE

BETHANY'S WINNING POEM

WALES

I'd love to go to Wales again
Back to the rolling hills
To climb the mountain giants
And gaze at golden daffodils

I'd love to go to Wales again
To hear the ancient song
The anthem of the heartland
Wales is where I belong

And when I go to sleep at night
And hear the wind groan
I'm proud to tell everyone
Wales is my heartfelt home.

Llanfair pupils' digital puppets

PURPLE PINKIE PROJECT PRIZES

ABOVE: Pupils show off their finger puppets.

THE announcement of the winners of a 'design and make your own finger puppet competition' marked the end of Llanfair Primary School's fundraising efforts for the 'Purple Pinkie Project', which raises money for polio vaccines in countries like Afghanistan, Nigeria, India and Pakistan.

Fundraising began with a non-uniform 'wear something purple' day and the school council's launch of the finger puppet competition.

The creative winners were announced at the school's World Book Day assembly.

All of the children were excited to hear that their efforts had raised £150 for the campaign.

MR

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FOCUS ON....

Vale Business Park

LLANDOW, NEAR COWBRIDGE

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

THE VALE BUSINESS PARK– PLAYING ITS PART IN BEATING THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

TO the casual motorist driving along the Llantwit Major to Cowbridge road at Llandow, the Vale Business Park might look like a 'trade only' enterprise.

It does, of course, have the Weavers retail Ford dealership which is highly visible at the entrance but few drivers realise the number of enterprises that ply their trade on the estate.

In fact, the business park hosts a surprising variety of businesses – all eager for new customers and all with something special to offer.

In these uncertain economic times, there is precious little that experts agree on, but one thing is certain – that small and medium-size privately-owned businesses are crucial to future economic prosperity.

The Vale Business Park has attracted many local entrepreneurs and, as well as employing local people and playing a vital role in the economic life of the Vale, these entrepreneurs have much to offer customers who need to get value for money.

The park was established from the 1970s onwards on what had been part of the old Llandow military airfield – created in 1938 by the MoD.

The man who developed the site is John Winslade, who is chairman of LEL Properties Ltd. His company owns all of the park – and about 80 per cent of the many and varied business units located there.

The rest are units which were privately developed on the firm's land.

Mr Windslade also owns Ledley Engineering, which was one of the first firms to open up on this land.

"The site was originally owned by the Ministry of Defence," he said. "They decided in the 1960s that they did not need it any more and it was put up for sale."

Since acquiring the land, Mr Winslade has invested millions in developing the business park.

"It has grown from fewer than 20 units originally, to the 90 we have at the moment," he said.

"We have a wide variety of businesses here and people are surprised when they visit at what they can find."

Take a tour of the business park and you will find a wide variety of companies offering goods and services including furniture, metal fabrication, joinery, car repair, woodburning stoves, caravans, printing, marquees and a variety of engineering products.

The owners have not been afraid to invest in the park, and a new entrance, complete with a gatehouse, was added in recent years.

The extra security that came with that development has given existing tenants peace of mind, and it is an important element in attracting more enterprises to the park in the future.

The gatehouse, of course, is manned at nights and at weekends.

In fact, a great deal of thought has gone into securing the site, while at the same time creating a good environment to work and do business in.

Stone walls were built around the estate but a number of areas were left undeveloped to provide natural 'green' places to take a break.

Planting around 3,000 trees has moved the development of these areas along nicely, and more and more wildlife has settled there.

Mr Winslade has been through three recessions since he started up on the park.

"We have been through 1976, 1982 and the mid-90s," he said.

The current economic downturn has hung around, but Mr Winslade says that LEL is in a strong position to weather the storm.

However, Mr Winslade is not complacent and he knows how tough it is at the moment for many companies.

He said: "We continue to offer very competitive rates and, as a small, local company we are in a position to negotiate with prospective tenants about terms and conditions.

"I would urge anyone thinking of either re-locating or opening up a new business to pop in or contact our managing agent, Herbert R Thomas in Cowbridge, and we will do our best to get them what they need at a price that's affordable.

"We have a wide variety of units available and we are getting some interest from existing businesses who are looking to move."

Mr Winslade said that the park was a "valuable source of employment in the locality".

ABOVE:
The Vale Business Park has a wealth of surprises in store at Llandow, on the Cowbridge to Llantwit Major road.

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Recent expansion to the company has now included a counter service area for customers, with a showroom area currently housing new mowers.

The company will repair, service or supply mowers according to your needs.

It has a part exchange system available; you can even have a courtesy mower, if you have unexpected special plans.

Your item can be repaired on site, or staff will collect and deliver free of charge – as and when necessary.

The company team is local to the Vale and has a wealth of experience and knowledge. Staff are all friendly, reliable and helpful .

Richard would like to thank all existing customers for their past loyalty and looks forward to their continued custom.

He also welcomes new customers – so come and look around!

There are great prices and everybody is welcome.

HOW TO FIND US ...

Entering the Vale Business Park, Llandow, you follow the main road into the site and keep straight ahead, practically to the end to where road narrowing pillars are situated. Turn right and then take the first left; the entrance is at the end of this street.

Call for more information on 01446 771660 or email us on: couzensmachinery@btconnect.com.

ABOVE: LEL Properties Ltd.

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Llandow Classics – for the true motorcycle enthusiast

LLANDOW CLASSICS was set up in October 2006 and was the idea of classic motorcycle enthusiasts, Chris Williams and Baz Cooper, who had previously worked together in the aircraft industry.

As the largest Royal Enfield motorcycle dealer in south Wales, the business is located at Unit 27a, Vale Business Park, near the back gate.

The company has the new EFI Electra and the new Classic 500 machines in stock, and now has both available as a demonstrator. If you would like to take a test ride, all you need to bring along is your helmet and driving licence.

We stock a range of new parts and accessories, including Davida Helmets, Halycyon Goggles, Buffs and Miller Classic Oils and can order items as required. We also offer a full workshop service, including wheel builds, servicing and renovation.

In addition, Llandow Classics also stocks a new range of motorcycle-related gift ideas – ideal – if you are looking for something for the motorcycle enthusiast.

Anyone is welcome to pop in for coffee, have a look at our bikes and take the new EFI Enfields out for a spin!

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Email couzensmachinery@btconnect.com

See page 14 for more businesses that can be found on Vale Business Park

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Vale Business Park

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It also specialises in the sale of quality pre-owned caravans, ranging from starter to high specification luxury models – all fully checked for your peace of mind.

ABOVE: A caravan being worked on at Vale Caravan Sales.

LEFT: Peak Performance, offering competitive prices and a warm and friendly service, is another of the wide range of companies to be found at the Vale Business Park.

Peak Performance offer great service and technical expertise

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WHEN you pop into Peak Performance, you can always be assured of a warm and welcoming service, offering competitive prices across the board.

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Offering servicing, MoTs, vehicle maintenance, tyres and other products, Peak Performance is truly a one-stop shop for all your car's needs.

It has three qualified MoT testers and also has specific training on Volkswagen, Audi, diesel and a range of diagnostics.

LEFT: The Riverlea showroom – there are many businesses based on the Vale Business Park, some of which you may not even have realised were there!

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ABOVE: The Topstak showroom.

Wilcare Holdings Ltd offers quality furniture

Wilcare Wales Ltd, Relax & Recline Chairs UK Ltd and Boston Designs Ltd are part of Wilcare Holdings Ltd, and are all manufacturers of high-quality furniture.

We are having a pre-Easter sale to make way for our new spring and summer collections and, therefore, need extra space.

The furniture that we have on offer ranges from three piece suites, sofas and chairs to electric rise and recline chairs.

All items in our sale are either cancelled orders, or returns – due to the furniture not being able to get into a house.

To arrange a viewing, please call Melanie on 01446 772227.

If you missed out on promoting your company in this feature, you can still take advantage of The GEM's coverage - from Penarth to Porthcawl and online, by appearing in our next 'In Business' feature in April.

Wilcare
Wales Premier manufacturer of furniture

Sale of sofa's, chairs & electric rise and recline chairs

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Prices to clear to make way for new stock

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Telephone: 01446 772227 **Fax:** 01446 772228
Email: gordon@wilcarewales.co.uk **Web:** www.wilcarewales.co.uk

Burton's Wonderland is the most peculiar (but unexciting) place to be!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

EITHER Tim Burton has some kind of grasp over Johnny Depp, or the pair just really enjoy working together!

Since *Edward Scissorhands* in 1991, the pair have worked together seven times, hitting the heights with the likes of *Sweeney Todd*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Ed Wood*.

Having seemingly developed their own shorthand with a hint of macabre, their latest joint effort sees them take on Lewis Carroll's famed *Alice in Wonderland*.

Alice (played by newcomer Mia Wasikowsa) is now 17, her adventures in Wonderland back in her childhood and forgotten.

When she is forced into a marriage proposal she has no wish to entertain, she runs off to follow the White Rabbit (voiced by Michael Sheen). Since she was last there, Wonderland has been taken over by the Red Queen (Helena Bonham Carter), who has overthrown the White Queen (Anne Hathaway), and the people of Wonderland hope Alice can fight the Jabberwocky in order to overthrow the evil queen.

However, she cannot do it alone, and must rely on help from all of those in Wonderland, such as Tweedledum and Tweedledee (Matt Lucas), the Blue Caterpillar (voiced by Alan Rickman) and, of course, the Mad Hatter (Depp)...

Retreading ground that has already been trampled on is not the best of options for Tim Burton – on the basis of his woeful 'reimagining' of *Planet of the Apes*. Since that travesty, however, Burton has hit form, with the likes of *Big Fish* and *Sweeney Todd* returning him to the heights of past glories.

Alice in Wonderland, however, is less a step back for the director, and more of a side step into a world where the end product is a mish-mash that entertains in fits and starts, but lacks any real cohesion or grip.

Certainly, the idea is a sound one, taking Lewis Carroll's story and imagining a sequel to it, where Alice is older and cannot remember the first time she fell down the rabbit hole. But a sound idea does not always make for a sound story, and that is the case here.

Linda Woolverton's screenplay does a clever job of taking the meat of the original and updating it, but by doing this she ends up trying to fit so much in that nothing much of it feels all that consequential in the grand scheme of things.

Characters pop up here and there, most of the time for little reason other than to seemingly create a connection between the original and this story, which makes for a film that bustles and hurries without ever really doing anything.

It's a shame, as contained within are some performances of real enjoyment. Mia Wasikowsa holds the screen incredibly well in her debut feature film performance, giving Alice a touch of depth and independence, yet still with a hint of wide-eyed innocence once she falls down the rabbit hole, while performances (physical and vocal) from the likes of Matt Lucas, Crispin Glover and Michael Sheen mean that the film isn't lacking in terms of performance.

The most intriguing turns are from Burton's right-hand man Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter. The former may be seemingly placing his stock wholly in kooky characters with peculiar quirks and tics, but he gives the Hatter a sense of pathos and sadness behind the garish hair and pale face.

Coupled with a split personality trait that sees him occasionally crack out a Glaswegian brogue and you have a performance that, while engaging, is more than a little off-kilter, and while wholly watchable, is ever so slightly peculiar.

Bonham Carter's turn is probably the most entertaining of all, channelling Queenie from Blackadder as the Red Queen with a head far larger than her body and full of rage and tyranny. Ordering 'Off with their heads' on a regular basis, her performance is winningly wonderful, played lightly but a hint of macabre - hers is a turn that strikes all the right notes.

As ever, Burton's direction is as gothic and twisted as ever, using his unique visual sensibility to create a film that isn't lacking in colour or creativity. What it is lacking in is much in the way of excitement, with the film lacking any truly notable moments.

There are sequences of real skill and bravura (Alice falling down the rabbit hole, the red and white armies meeting on a giant chessboard) but they are all too fleeting; couple this with a weak use of the 3-D technology (something that, since the release of *Avatar*, has taken on far greater importance) and you have a film that while kaleidoscopic in colour, never quite hits the spot as you hope it would.

In among the myriad of peculiar characters and off kilter moments there is an entertaining film lurking; however, Burton appears more concerned with making a wilfully offbeat film than an entertaining one, and while *Alice In Wonderland* is a interesting viewing experience, it rarely feels like an essential one.

VERDICT – Another weird, but only slightly wonderful, offering from Tim Burton, *Alice In Wonderland* entertains in fits and starts but is too concerned with its peculiarities to make for a enjoyable viewing experience.

Good turns from the likes of Mia Wasikowsa, Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter raise the levels, but overall it makes for a slightly underwhelming watch. *Average*.

Henri shatters a Ty Hafan record!

Henri Armelin presents Gaynor Taylor of Ty Hafan with the record breaking cheque.

HENRI ARMELIN is a Ty Hafan record breaker after raising the most money ever for a sponsored head shave.

The 16-year old, from The Knap in Barry, was able to present Gaynor Taylor, a Ty Hafan community fundraising co-ordinator, with a record £3145.61.

Henri smashed the record of £1,610 previously raised for the charity from a head-shaving event.

Gaynor said: "This is a huge sum Henri has raised. It will help us to continue to offer care and support to the life-limited children, young people and their families who desperately need it.

"Everyone at Ty Hafan is extremely grateful to him for his selfless act and raising such an enormous amount of money for the charity."

Also at the presentation, was Stas Asprou of Asprou Gent's Hairdressers in Broad Street, Barry who was given the responsibility of shaving Henri's hair.

Mayor's coffee

THE Mayor of the Vale will hold a charity coffee morning at the Corporate Suite, Civic Office, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, March 23 at 10.30am-12noon.

All proceeds will go to the ValePlus charity.

Former rugby star 'full of remorse' court is told

FORMER rugby star, JPR Williams, appeared in a Cardiff court on Monday, where he was banned for 17 months on a drink-driving charge.

He had failed a breath test after being stopped in his red Audi cabriolet in Cardiff and put in a patrol car to be taken to a police station for another test. He had placed coins in his mouth in a mistaken attempt to thwart the breathalyser readings.

A blood sample showed 142 millgrammes of alcohol in 100 millitres of blood; the legal limit is 80.

Cardiff magistrates heard that police stopped the former surgeon's car after being told a similar vehicle had been stolen. However, his solicitor, Nigel Daniel, said: "I wonder how many other red Audis have the registration number JPR."

Mr Daniel said JPR and another former Wales star had been entertained at London Welsh's ground in Old Deer Park in Richmond during a match on January 30.

The pair were chauffered back to Cardiff where JPR took the "stupid and misconceived" idea to drive back eight miles to his home in Llansannor.

He said: "Dr Williams was under the foolish apprehension that after a four-hour journey he would be fit to drive. It was a costly mistake."

"To say that his arrest and detention had a salutary effect on him would be an understatement. He was terrified. He is full of remorse.

"He feels he has let his family down, his friends and those who held him in high regard for his sporting prowess.

"He is somebody who as a medical expert should clearly have known better."

Mr Williams was fined £380 with £85 and £15 victim surcharge after admitting drink-driving. His 17-month ban will be cut by four months if he attends a course.

Outside court, his solicitor said: "He regrets the actions which led him to appear here today. He hopes some good will come of today and that others, both young and old, will not follow his example and will refrain from drink-driving.

"He would also warn people not to drive in the mistaken belief that alcohol has left the system."

Burglars strike at Barry Island

BARRY police are investigating a burglary at a house on Heol Eryr Mor, Barry Island, between 3am and 7am on Saturday, February 27 – when a handbag was stolen containing cash, bank cards and £40 of John Lewis vouchers.

Anyone with information is asked to contact DC Lee Davies at Barry CID on 01446 731606, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Dyffryn Gardens is free for Mother's Day!

LOOKING for a special way to show your mum what she means to you this Mother's Day, March 14 – if so, why not take her to popular Dyffryn Gardens for free?

The special offer follows the success of previous similar events at the Vale Council-owned tourist attraction and, to take advantage of the offer, all it needs is for mums to be accompanied by a full paying child or adult.

Vale Council cabinet member for leisure and tourism Coun Anthony Ernest commented: "After such a fantastic response to St David's Day, Dyffryn Gardens has once again shown the important role it plays, not only as a local attraction, but also in encouraging tourism to the area. I hope that many families take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and visit the gardens this Mother's Day."

For more information on visiting the gardens or about any of the events taking place throughout the year, visit www.dyffryngardens.com

Gibbonsdown centre AGM

GIBBONSDOWN Community Centre is holding its managements AGM today (March 11) at 6pm in the Community Centre, Ramsey Road, Barry.

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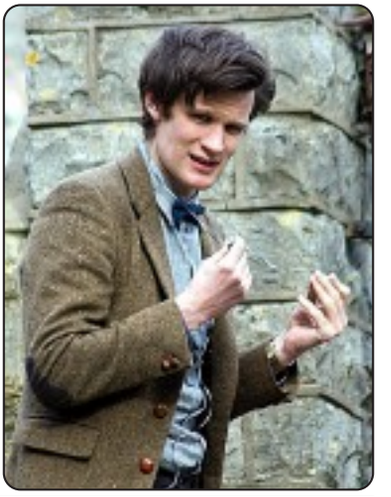
Who's that walking around Llantwit Major?

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK SNOWDEN

The new Doctor reveals his quirky country gentleman look as he films in Llantwit Major.



IT IS hard to say just when, but the day will come soon when Llantwit Major residents will be glued to their TV screen, trying to spot their home town when it appears on *Doctor Who*.

It did not take long last week for word to get around that the young men with the toughest job in the UK (filling David Tennant's shoes) was filming in Llantwit.

It took local resident Mark Snowden to infiltrate the BBC's anti-paparazzi security cordon to take these photos of the new Doctor, Matt Smith, hard at work on a forthcoming episode of the iconic time-travelling show

COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN

Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

WHIST DRIVE

THE Llancarfan Society's next whist drive will be on Tuesday, March 30, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Admission (as usual) is £1 and there will be prizes, a raffle and refreshments.

Other dates are April 27, May 25, June 29, July 27, August 32, September 28, October 26, November 30 and December 28.

NO TRIBUTE

IT is regretted that the Neil Diamond Tribute has had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

Natalie stars for Llantwit netball

LLANTWIT B netballers faced Llantwit Fardre on Thursday and were expecting a tough match.

Llantwit took a whole quarter to warm up with a lot of missed shots, but when they started the second quarter they looked like a different team.

Natalie Parsons (GK) and Bethan Lewis (GD) defended excellently and worked well with the centre court players Oonagh Payne (C) and Grace Osbourne (WA) to feed Anna Griffin (GA) and Jess Richards (GS) who both started popping goals in from all around the circle. Alys Richardson (WD) had a fantastic game, intercepting passes with ease and disrupting any gameplay.

At half-time Llantwit were starting to open up a commanding lead which stretched further with the help from substitutes Jodie Cotton and Lizzie Davies.

The final score was Llantwit Major 42 – Llantwit Fardre 20 with Natalie Parsons voted player of the match.Well Done to all the players! **KR**

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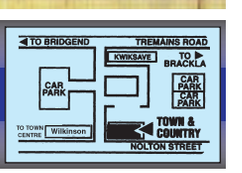

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"We don't replace something unless it is absolutely necessary – in this way Future Window Solutions saves customers' money."

There are a number of other services that the company offers.

The spokesman added: "We can facelift your home, replacing tired looking fascias, soffits and gutters with our high quality components to give your roofline an attractive, clean edge finish. All our products are available in a range of colours to match your fittings.

"We also do internal repairs or improvements such as painting and decorating, and work involving capentry and joinery. If you want work done to internal doors, a bathroom or a kitchen, then give us a call.

"We proud of our green credentials too – our products are 100 per cent recyclable and we only offer energy saving products too."

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr Mark Allen – **7 Wesley Avenue, Rhoose, Barry** – ground and first floor extensions to rear and two dormer extensions to front.

Prisk Pub Co Ltd – **City Inn, City, Llansannor** – conversion of former public house to single dwelling including external alterations.

Mr Eric Roberts – **The Lodge, 1 Coed Masernen, Colwinston** – demolition of garage to side. Construction of two storey extension to side and single storey extension to rear.

Cofton (Wales) Limited – **former Llanilid Opencast Coal Site, Llanharan** – vary conditions attached to planning permission 04/1246/13 to provide for additional time for submission of reserved matters and commencement of development and to vary multiple conditions relating to that permission.

The Co-operative Group – **Somerfield Supermarket, Boverton Road, Llantwit Major** – provide new mechanical plant in position indicated on plan, with new pallisade fence to match existing.

Mr Rob Baron – **St Kevern, 10 Craig Yr Eos Road, Ogmore By Sea** – existing loft conversion and proposed rear extension to residential property.

Persimmon Homes Limited – **land at and adjoining White Farm, Merthyr Dyfan, Barry** – residential and open space development, including associated building and engineering operations.

Mr E Goodfellow – **Plots 9A, 10A and 11A Marconi Holiday Village, Fort Road, Penarth** – seasonal chalets (10 months, March 1-December 31).

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National Trust members' meeting

THE Vale of Glamorgan Association of National Trust members met in Cowbridge recently and enjoyed an interesting talk given by Mr David Harrison, on 'Dylan Thomas Lives On'.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 17 at 7.30pm in the Duke of Wellington, when the speaker, Ms Kate Roberts, will talk about 'Kidwelly Castle'.

Membership of the association is open to any paid-up member of the National Trust or National Trust for Scotland, or spouse/partner of a life member, or a National Trust staff member or volunteer.

In the spring and summer, the group organises trips to various National Trust properties, which are always most enjoyable. New members are welcome.

For further information, contact the membership secretary on 01443 223230.

THE HARE AND HOUNDS DELIVERS HIGH QUALITY DINING IN THE VALE

REVIEW by TIM CHAPMAN

TEN months have passed since business partners Jeff Gladwin and Kevin Cooper, along with their wives Linda and Emma, took over The Hare and Hounds in Aberthin, setting themselves the challenge of providing a high quality, but affordable Vale dining experience.

As befits one of the area's oldest pubs – it dates back to the 14th century – the old stone walls and hearth centrepiece provide a traditional setting to the restaurant, but with a modern, sophisticated décor which is complemented by subdued lighting.

Jeff and Kevin recruited half French, half Moroccan chef Rachid Azouz whose aim has been to provide a mixture of traditional and exotic dishes, with a touch of Mediterranean flair.

There was good selection of wines starting from a house wine to a wider choice of white, red and rose, and for the connoisseur a fine wine list. Since my wife is the wine expert in the family, she chose a pleasant Patriarche Sauvignon blanc from the fine wine list at £15 a bottle.

For the quality of what was offered, the prices of the starters were very reasonable, ranging from £3.95 to £4.95.

Deep fried brie on a bed of mixed leaf salad and cranberry salsa – my wife's choice – was £3.95. The brie was lovely and creamy with just a light coating of bread crumbs, beautifully presented and the cranberry sauce added the finishing touch in lifting the flavour of the brie.

ABOVE:
Offering a high quality service are Chef Rachid Azouz, manager Richard Phelps and waitresses Gracie Arnot and Sandy Thomas.

My choice was Thai king prawns marinated in garlic, served with guacamole on a bed of lettuce at £4.95 – the prawns were large and succulent, and the garlic marinade gave it a real zing.

Main courses are priced from £7.95 for a home made curry, for example, to £17.95 for the finest fillet steak.

My wife chose cannon of Welsh lamb, served with a sauté of French beans and shallots with Dauphinoise potatoes and port jus at £9.95. It was served medium rare and was beautifully cooked, retaining the juices and very tender. The French beans were just right and the port jus was "to die for"; it really brought the flavours together.

I was tempted by the spinach, asparagus and ricotta strudel with rocket and red pesto at £9.95. The spinach, asparagus and ricotta were lovely and fresh, and wrapped in a parcel of filo pastry that was light and crisp.

There was also a good range of other home-made dishes to chose from.

Neither of us like heavy desserts, so we chose profiteroles with fresh double cream at £3.95 and raspberry cheesecake at £3.95.

There was a comprehensive range of other desserts to tempt your palate all at £3.95, except for the ice-cream which was only £1.50.

Along with drinks the evening came out at just over £50.

The service from Richard Phelps, the manager, and waitresses Sandy and Gracie was friendly and attentive.

It looks as if partners Jeff and Kevin are succeeding in their aim, and are likely to build a sound reputation in the months to come.

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday 13th March
Dean Scott - Vocalist (9pm)

Sunday 14th March
Mother's Day Traditional Sunday Roast plus Flamenco Guitar Player (12pm)

Saturday 20th March
Daz - Vocalist (9pm)

Saturday 27th March
Peter Sheriaden - Vocalist (9pm)

Friday 2nd April
Darryl Wyn - Guitarist/Vocals (9pm)

Saturday 3rd April
Supernatural Sound - Band (9pm)
A crowd pleasing band

Sunday 4th April
Samantha Adams - Vocalist (9pm)
Superbly powerful voice, one not to miss

It looks like being a classic summer season here at the Ocean Lounge. With a few more improvements, both in sound and lighting, and some changes to the menu with a NEW SPECIALS BOARD, we are definitely worth visiting.

Can you be entertained? Mixing it up a bit more this year. As well as cabaret nights on a Saturday we will be having some BANDS AND COMEDIANS plus a mixture of other acts on a Friday such as KARAOKE, THEME NIGHTS, BAND NIGHTS, COMEDY NIGHTS, even HYPNOTISTS and DRAG ARTISTS, there is something for everyone. It's the only place to go to over the Bank holiday weekends, with 3 big nights of entertainment. Keep an eye out for what's coming.

And to eat? We offer a great value MENU FROM ONLY £4.99 with traditional family favourites, plus some more unusual fayre too. Don't forget our Curry with a pint on Thursday evenings. It's been really popular, with home made curries changing weekly, plus the Thursday quiz. SUNDAY LUNCH FROM £6.95 offers exceptional value for a table served meal in relaxed surroundings without the hustle and the bustle of the usual carvery fare. You will need to be quick to book a table for Mothers Day. For this special day we will have a FLAMENCO GUITAR PLAYER to entertain you whilst you dine.

The location? With fantastic views from the cliff top overlooking the Bristol Channel, with views to The Knap and the historic islands of Steepholm and Flatholm, and on a clear day across to Weston, it is a great place to find refreshment with a large CLIFF TOP PATIO AND OUTDOOR SEATING. And yet only a 10 minute trip from Barry or Llantwit Major. What else? A LARGE CAR PARK and pleasant location makes us an ideal place to hold a wedding reception, birthday party, conference or any private function. Bookings are already being taken for the popular CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS. In short, a great place, serving good food and good beer, with great atmosphere!

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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Karaoke (8pm)

Saturday 10th April
Christine Black - Vocalist (9pm)

Friday 16th April
The Mopheads (9pm)
Three guitarists with an incredible stage presence

Saturday 17th April
Chris Martin - Vocalist (9pm)

Friday 23rd April
James Alexander - Vocalist (9pm)
Cracking voice, great songlist

Saturday 24th April
Holly Wilson - Vocalist (9pm)

Friday 30th April
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Out and About with The GEM

PORTHCAWL ARTIST STAGES NEW EXHIBITION AT DONAT'S

A LOCAL artist is currently staging an exhibition of abstract work at the St Donat's Arts Centre.

Peter Millis of Porthcawl is a retired architect turned artist who is interested in patterns, colours, shapes and "soul-searching designs".

He expresses these on canvas and board, mainly in acrylics. He started his artwork in 2005 and joined the Silures Art Group of Porthcawl in 2006.

The exhibition was formally opened by fellow artist Patricia Mears before an audience including many local artists.

The exhibition runs at the St Donats Art Centre until March 30.

ABOVE: The artist and his wife Marian mingle with the audience at St Donat's.

(Photograph by Keith E Morgan).

ABOVE: Patricia Mears with Peter and Marian discussing the merits of one of the artist's creations. (Photograph by Keith E Morgan).

Ty Hafan's latest lottery draw winning numbers

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 608.

● **£2000:** 266803.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £4,000 was not claimed this week.**

● **£10:** 248019; 636547; 346126; 445665; 402381; 592142; 230816; 199680; 807899; 227030; 620583; 679589; 831658; 538534; 383457; 856730; 542179; 284873; 452373; 633039.

● **£5:** 493676; 670337; 633405; 775114; 876693; 521635; 424376; 318777; 305079; 919452; 186208; 495616; 351096; 328281; 723802; 848271; 245523; 865048; 465527; 174220; 431388; 148198; 862901; 633689; 642843; 499913; 112263; 433043; 204705; 127626; 880521; 558045; 429809; 351666; 342888; 904063; 232448; 793333; 764876; 273297; 535661; 635210; 459066; 365704; 208329; 151829; 518339; 215085; 229415; 818835; 481430; 247358; 881496; 168326; 119479; 450516; 191753; 426545; 395923; 828635.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

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For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

ART SOCIETY

THE Cowbridge Art Society will meet on Thursday, March 18 at 7pm in Old Hall, High Street, when Charlotte Leadbetter will be giving a demonstration on figures in motion (ballet) in mixed media.

Non-members are welcome.

Coffee at care centre

FOR the last 10 years, the Care Centre on Barry Island has been run jointly by the Red Cross, NHS and Social Services.

It will now be run by the Barry Red Cross and the link group will be holding a coffee morning on March 20 from 10.30am-12noon.

There will be a raffle and stalls; admission 50p with tea/coffee and biscuits.

The centre at Breaksea Drive, Barry Island, is open for daily respite care.

Vale roadworks

Plassey Street, junctions with Glebe Street/Albert Road, Penarth – carriageway width restrictions.
Pontypridd Street - junction with Mount Pleasant – footway restriction in place.
St Brides Super Ely from junction with Cyepyn Lane to Heol St Y Nyll – road closure.
B4265 opposite the Monument to Gileston Village – road closure.
Caerau Lane, Wenvoe – temporary traffic control.
Junction Bradenham Place to Hickman Road, Penarth – temporary traffic control.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Plaid surgery

THERE will be a Plaid advice surgery for local residents with councillors Caroline Turner and Barry Shaw (who will be joined by Keith Stockdale) at Holton Primary School, Pyke Street, Barry, from 11am-12midday this Saturday (March 13).

No appointments are necessary.

Valeways walks

WEDNESDAY, March 17 at 1.30pm, Plas Llanmihangel Valley. Start opposite Victoria Inn, Sigingstone.

Staurday, March 20, 10.30am Penmark, Millennium circular (part two) Six Bells, Penmark car park.

Tuesday, March 23, 1.30pm Penarth - promenade and parks. Start at Penarth Cliff Tops car park.

Diabetes charity meets at hospital

THE Vale branch of Diabetes UK Cymru is meeting on Tuesday, March 16, in the board room at Llandough Hospital at 7.30pm.

The speaker will be Dr Julia Platts (consultant diabetologist). New members are welcome.

For further information, telephone 01446 746639.

PACT meetings

COURT PACT, Scout Hall, Ilminster Street, today (March 11), 7.30pm.

STANWELL PACT, Glyndwr Community Centre, Penarth, March 11, 7pm.

CADOC PACT, Palmerston Community Centre, March 17, 7pm.

CASTLELAND PACT, Civic Offices, Holton Road, March 29, 7pm.

ILLTYD PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel, March 30, 7pm.

BARUC PACT, St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, March 30, 7.15pm.

RHOOSE PACT, Celtic Way Community Centre, March 30, 7pm.

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Friday, 12th March
Friday 26th March
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Young Performers which is aimed at 7-11 year olds who want to improve their singing and performance skills. Over the 10 weeks we will cover various songs, from west end to pop, harmonies, solo's, dance, and drama. **Every Tuesday 4.30pm-6pm @The Little Shop of Clam, 1 Westgate. Cowbridge. £65 per 10 week term. £8.50 per class.**

Stagecamp are now enrolling for Singing/Drama tuition held at **The Stagecamp Studio, tutor Lianne Morgan, only 5 places available 10am - 11am ages 14, 15, and 16, 11am - 12pm 5 and 6 year olds. There will only be 5 pupils per class £100 for 10 weeks.**

For more info e-mail contact@liannemorgan.co.uk or visit www.stagecamp.co.uk

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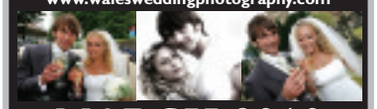

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Local riding club gets ready for new season's activities

LLANTWIT MAJOR and District Riding Club's annual general meeting will be held on Thursday, March 25, at the Boverton Castle pub, Boverton at 7pm.

Also, awards will be given to those scoring the highest points in 2009. Llantwit Major and District Riding Club is looking forward to another successful year of competitions and fun and would like anyone interested who has access to a horse or pony to get involved.

A spokeswoman said: "We run all types of competitions and events, including the non-competitive 'Farm X challenge' in April together with regular show jumping, showing classes and dressage.

"We host these events at our own grounds at Tremains Farm, Llanmaes.

The atmosphere is always fun and everyone is very friendly and welcoming. There really is something for everyone.

"Fees to join the club and enter events are always reasonable so that everyone can join in."

To find out more, come along to the AGM or contact Ann Barnaby on 01446 750574 or Sarah Battrick at lmrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk.

ABOVE:
Lisa Lindsay.

LLANTWIT MAJOR JUNIOR FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Under-14A side's 'superb' performance

by GWYN JOHN

AT last, Llantwit Major junior teams were back in action with four teams fixtured.

All teams were away and there were three victories out of the four matches played.

The outstanding performance came from the under-14As who won 5-2 at Dinas Powys A in a top-of-the-table clash.

Llantwit found themselves a goal down early on and it took a penalty from Edward Howley to equalise before the interval.

Llantwit took over the second half with an outstanding performance with Owain Lord (two) Joe Laing and Tom Russell scoring further goals.

Dinas added a second from the penalty spot but on the day they were no match for the Major, who now take over the leadership.

The under-14Bs also did well to record a 3-2 away victory at Cowbridge.

It was a good team performance with Josh Steventon (two) and Ryan Glenton the goalscorers for the Major.

The under-15 side came back from being a goal down to win 2-1 at Sully Sports 'B'. Robert Sawyer and Luke Wiltshire were Llantwit's marksmen in a tough encounter.

The under-13B put up a good performance, despite losing 6-3, at Porthkerry Panthers.

Matthew Broderick was outstanding in central defence and team mates Leo Morris (two) and Ben Brown were on target.

The final score could easily have been closer, with Ben Brown twice hitting the upright.

St Athan are netball champs

THE girls of St Athan Primary were the winners of the inter-school netball tournament, which took place on March 2 at school.

The team put a lot of hard work into this by practising in the after-school netball club, and also gave up playtimes to practise their netball skills.

The team played against four local primary schools and won every match.

The team, parents and staff of the school are over the moon with this wonderful achievement. Well done, St Athan.

GJ

Bowls meeting

LLANTWIT MAJOR Bowls Club ladies section will be holding their pre-season meeting at the Bowls Pavilion, Llantwit Major, on Monday, March 22, commencing at 10am.

Prospective new members will be made very welcome.

Further information is available from secretary Mrs Pat Cook, on 01446 793815.

Llantwit Major Youth sweep aside Llanishen

LLANTWIT youth travelled to Llanishen to play the second round of the east district cup.

As Llantwit had lost to Llanishen twice last year in the league, a hard match was expected. Llantwit looked up for it, putting early pressure on the kick, causing the Llanishen receiver to knock on.

Llanishen had a very big pack of forwards, but the first try went to Llantwit when Ryan Evans passed from a scrum and Kian Spillane stepped inside to avoid the blitz defence.

He rounded the fly-half and full-back to cross for a try which was converted by Josh Austin.

Llantwit continued to add more pressure through the forwards, who were playing out of there skins. Mike Myers and Ben Cutter were everywhere and the next try was scored by Matt Roberts after the backs fizzed the ball through six pairs of hands.

Austin converted, and soon after, he crossed the line, only to have the ball knocked out of his hands by an excellent defensive tackle.

Llanishen responded and excellent tackling from the forwards kept them from crossing the line. However, Llanishen caught the whole Llantwit back line offside and converted the penalty.

Llantwit lost a bit of discipline and Llanishen caught them offside again, making it 14 – 6.

Llantwit were under a lot of pressure and digging deep to keep Llanishen out until a good tackle by Austin spilled the ball, and Steffan Price picked up for a straight run in from half-way, converted to make the score 21 – 6.

Llantwit were not finished. From the five-metre line, Joe Hartley picked up and went blind with two men to beat and handed off the flanker before smashing the winger out of the way to cross in the corner. Llantwit led at half time by 26 - 6.

In the second half, forwards Nathan Howells and Sam Booker were chasing down everything and the front row of Carl Watts, Rhys Davies and Geraint David were strong all game,

Llanishen started to lose their discipline and were down to 14 after a player was yellow carded and Austin kicked the resultant penalty.

Llantwit put more pressure on the depleted pack, and Austin kicked two more penalties.

Llanishen responded with a penalty of their own but then lost a player to a straight red for pushing the referee.

The final try was scored by full-back Marcus Pearce, coming into the line and sprinting from the 10-metre line to score in the corner.

Final score 40 - 9 to Llantwit.

The team will face Cardiff HSOB in the next round at home.

MP

Under-11s beat Old Illtydians

LLANTWIT MAJOR unde-11s travelled to Cardiff to play Old Illtydians last Sunday and played 'down the slope' in the first half.

From a line out, the ball was spun out to the backs who made an excellent run, but knocked on.

The first scrum went to the home side and, as the ball came out, the scrum-half was harried by Llantwit's Tom Slimmins.

The home side tried to move it wide, and outside half Harry Morgan Grant harried his opposite number, who sent a hopeful pass to his centre.

Alex Parry was quickly onto this player and ripped the ball clear to romp home for the first try. Harry Morgan Grant converted.

This inspired Llantwit and by half time tries had been scored by Joe Nott (three), two more by Alex Parry, and a first for second row Ethan Forrest, who showed good footballing skills and perseverance by following up a kick from deep in his 22.

Not to be outdone, Harry Morgan Grant ghosted through the defence to score, and converted all the tries. The score at half time was 56-0.

The second half continued with further scores by Llantwit but the home side were rewarded with two scores of their own.

Substitute Ben Simpson McCourt entered the fray and scored his first try for the club. Further tries came from Alex Parry and Joe Nott but the cream of the tries came when Morgan Grant ran 20 metres and gave an overhead pass to Alex Parry, who drove into the opposition.

Joe Nott tried to batter his way to the line but was held, and passed to Harry Morgan Grant, who side-stepped two players and scored.

With the under-11s district tournament at Llantwit next week, we hope this will inspire the boys to realise their potential.

RG

COWBRIDGE MINI AND JUNIOR RUGBY ROUNDUP

Junior section's matches provide fine entertainment

UNDER-10s

COWBRIDGE under-10s welcomed Bath RFC for what would prove to be a superb display of open, running rugby.

From the start, the forward battle was intense but, as the game settled, Cowbridge appeared to have the upper hand at the breakdown.

From a good back row move, they threatened the Bath line, only to be held up by solid defence. However, the ball was moved to Max Lucas and the hooker drove over to open the scoring.

Bath threatened to hit back, making use of their excellent centre pairing but the home side's defence was outstanding.

Time and again, the ball was turned over in contact and the back row pairing of Jac Roberts and Sam Corkill were superb.

Cowbridge drove deep into Bath territory and Dan Taylor powered over to double the lead just before half time.

In the second half, the Cowbridge forwards were immense as they tied in the Bath defenders. As play neared the Bath try line, the quick thinking Ioan Lewis released Rhys Bradshaw who side-stepped through to give Evan Williams the half yard required for the flying winger to increase the lead.

Bath hit back as their impressive centre outstripped his opposite number to register their opening score.

Jake Griffiths and Bevan Howells carried the ball deep in to Bath territory where it was fed to Luke Beattie, and the Cowbridge winger did well to stay in field.

Bath were desperate to hold out but Jac Roberts capped a superb performance with the final try of the day and a final score: **Cowbridge 20 Bath 5**.

DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Bath had arrived with about 16 players, so the development team knew they were in for a stern test.

Play moved into the Bath half and Dan Marshall drove over to open the scoring.

Bath hit back immediately thanks to some poor defence from the home side. James Guard then added the second Cowbridge try to regain the lead.

For Cowbridge, Max Cunnington, William Davies and Tom Jose were all making good contributions up front, while Olly Reynolds, Liam Murphy and Rhys Davies all looked dangerous with the ball in hand.

Bath however, always threatened and their speedy back line soon levelled the scores with an excellent try.

Cowbridge then found themselves defending their line from a five-metre line out. The ball was spilled over the try line and the Bath boys reacted quickest to take the lead for the first time.

Cowbridge hit straight back and after good work from Josh Doyle and Tom Coates, the ball was fed to Dan Marshall, who beat three men, threw an outrageous side-step and sauntered over to tie the scores as the half-time whistle blew.

In the second half the Bath side, bolstered by the inclusion of a few more first team boys, began to dominate and scored twice to give themselves a cushion.

However, Cowbridge would not lie down and the impressive Dan Marshall drove over to register his hat-trick and Cowbridge's fourth try.

As the half drew on, the Cowbridge defence was magnificent with Liam Murphy and William Davies making try-saving tackles.

With time nearly up, Cowbridge had to risk all on their own line. The ball was lost and Bath touched down to edge an exhilarating contest.

Final score Cowbridge 20 Bath 30.

UNDER-11s

Cowbridge under-11s played a hastily rearranged away game against old rivals Bridgend Athletic and won a close encounter by 21 – 14.

Rhys Barnard opened the scoring when he quickly followed up a clearing kick from Cai Evans to beat the opposition to the line and score an excellent opportunist try.

Bridgend then applied tremendous pressure but some resolute defence and brave tackling from the Cowbridge forwards, with Harry Hopkins and Charlie Martin in outstanding form, prevented their line from being crossed.

A quick pass from scrum half Osian John resulted in second row Thomas Evans-Williams setting up a ruck 10 yards from the Bridgend line, where Rhys Barnard gathered the ball to score his second try.

The next try was a superb team effort, with Joe Watts and Dan Bunney providing a platform for the elusive Cai Evans to outstrip the opposing backs to score.

All three tries were converted by Cai Evans and Cowbridge reached half time comfortably leading by 21 – 0.

Immediately from the kick off, Bridgend appeared to be a transformed team and their forwards soon began to dominate.

Wings Harrison Stevens and Sam John were forced to make early tackles to prevent their line being crossed but within the first 10 minutes of the second half the home team had scored two tries.

Cowbridge bravely held out to the final whistle to win a hard-fought match played in an excellent spirit.

Final score: Cowbridge 21 Bridgend Athletic 14.

UNDER-12s

Cowbridge under-12s played well against a very committed Fairwater team, with the back row play of Ben Jones, Luke John and Josh Brace providing the link between a solid tight five and fluid backs to produce nine well-taken tries.

Scrum halves Rob David and Huw Bennett fed the back line quickly, leading to an early try for Liam Sloane, who ran the ball in from the wing.

The centre pairing of Hywel Williams and Ashford Thomas has been excellent all season and a break from halfway by Hywel led to him galloping in for try number two.

A charging run from midfield by flanker Josh Brace provided try number three, with Gabe Newham providing number four shortly after.

Fairwater kept playing strongly and were rewarded with a try, run in by their winger after a bit of apathetic tacking by the Cowbridge backs which drew the ire of coach Andrew David.

The Cowbridge backs were making charge after charge, with Matt Harper handling the outside half slot perfectly, and further tries were scored before half time by backs Jonny Harvey and Ashford Thomas.

Cowbridge made a number of changes at half time and were caught cold by another Fairwater try soon after the restart.

The Cowbridge forwards responded with strong runs by forwards Tom Evans and Fraser McGann.

Jac Davies powered over for a try from 10 metres out, and this soon was followed by another from skipper George Thomas.

Kicking duties were shared by Jonny Harvey and Matt Harper to produce a final score of **53 – 10** to Cowbridge.

It was great to see the majority of the boys back at the club after the game. Our thanks go to Alex Howells and her brigade of mums for all their efforts in the kitchen – ensuring all the boys were well fed.

ML

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Nyth Y Dryw, Rhoose Point
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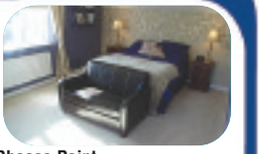

Glyn Y Gog, Rhoose Point
5 double bed superb detached home, 2 receptions, fully fitted kitchen, bathroom, 2 en-suites, gas ch, upvc dg, 4 car drive, double garage & gardens.
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Bryn Y Gloyn, Rhoose Point
5 bed stunning detached, 4 receptions, no chain, super kitchen/dining space, cloaks, 2/3 en-suites & bathroom, sauna & hot tub, large gardens, 6 car drive & garage.
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WEST END £144,950

College Place, Barry
Traditional bay fronted semi with lounge, 3 Bedrooms, refitted kitchen and bathroom. Ideal for side Extension. GCH, UPVC DG. Superb sea views and gardens to front side and rear.
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£198,000

Beatty Close, Barry
Lovely detached house with 4 receptions, 4 bedrooms ,fitted oak kitchen, bathroom and cloaks. Gas CH, UPVC DG, Sea Views and Garage with 4 Car Drive. Gardens.
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NEW WEST END £204,950

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WEST END £229,950

Pontypridd Road, Barry
Impressive Semi with 2 Receptions, 4 Bedrooms, Large Kitchen/Diner, Cloaks, En-suite and bathroom. Gas C.H. UPVC DG.Garage, Parking and gardens.
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Speed and accuracy essential.
Please forward CV for the attention of
Clare Gore, The Glamorgan GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL.
Closing date: Friday, 26th March, 2010.

Vacancy for Internal Auditor

The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2005 require all Town and Community Councils to maintain an adequate and effective internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control. The Council is seeking to appoint a competent internal auditor with sufficient organisational independence and status to undertake the role. The person will be appointed on a self-employed basis and needs to have an understanding of the local government framework. The appointment will be for twelve months, with a possible renewal for up to five years.

Areas to be covered are Local Government Regulatory Framework and Corporate Governance, Maintenance of Accounting Records and Bank Reconciliations, Review of Payments including Petty Cash, Review of Income, Budgetary Control, Assessment and Management of Risk, Review of Assets, Staff Related Issues including Payroll, Investments and Loans. In addition, the Town Council would require, at least once per year, a formal audit report and completion of Section 4 of the Councils Annual Return being the conclusion and summary of the internal audit for the year.

All prospective candidates are requested to submit a proposal of services to the Executive Officer, Barry Town Council, Town Council Offices, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 8NA.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is Wednesday 31 March 2010.

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Anniversaries

Golden Wedding Anniversary
12th March, 2010
WOLDRIDGE
Margaret & Ken
To a wonderful couple - we all love you both loads!
Nan & all the family.
XXXXX

Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary
12th March, 2010

Glen & Bob Cosslett
Love Tracey, Phillip and David.
XXXXX

Family Notices

ROACH
Arthur Trevlyn
On March 7, 2010, Trev of Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of the late Betty, loving father of David, step-father of Diane, Theresa, Ashlene and Nigel.
Funeral service on Wednesday March 17, in Coychurch Crematorium at 11.00am.
Family flowers only, but donation may be made to Cancer Research UK Cymru c/o Funeral Director, WA Brown & Son, Llantwit Major.

HARDING
Frederick Arthur George
Peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, on March 2, Frederick of Eton Street, Barry (formerly an immigration officer at Barry Docks and Rhoose Airport).
Dearly beloved husband of Phyllis, much-loved father of Ian and Lynne, father-in-law of Karla and Alan, loving grandad of Tina and Christopher, great-grandad of Nia.
Resting at AG Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his service in the chapel on Monday March 15, at 2pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu to the Noah's Ark Appeal, UHW Heath Park, Cardiff CF14 4XW.

BARNETT
Elizabeth (Betty)
Doug and Ian would like to thank all who attended Betty's funeral and for the many cards and messages of sympathy they have received. Special thanks to Rev Canon Mervyn Davies and St Illtud's clergy for the service and to WA Brown & Son for the funeral arrangements. Also thanks to all who have made donations to either Marie Curie Cancer Care or MacMillan Cancer Support.

LEWIS
Bernard William George
The family of Bernard Lewis would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their kind words and support during this sad time. Thanks also to Father Maher for the lovely service and to WA Brown & Son Funeral Directors for their professionalism.
"Rest in peace, dear Dad"
Tony, Jill, Lucy and Anna

JONES
Clarice May
On March 6, at her home in St Athan, Clarice, beloved wife of the late William (Bill), dearly loved mother of Linda, Ken, Irene and the late John, dear mother-in-law of Denise and the late George, much loved grandmother of Sarah and Ian, Nicola and Jon, John and Jemima, Jonathan and the late Hayley, great-grandmother of Bethan and Megan.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday March 15th, service and interment 2pm at St Athan Church. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Marie Curie Nurses, Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth.

Mother's Day

Lisa Sprudd
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
Lots of love, Theo & Jason.
XXX

Lost & Found

FOUND
Ladies' leather gloves
Left at Twinning Coffee Morning on Saturday, March 6.
Please ring 01446 794729 (evening)

FOUND
Broad St. Garden Centre, Barry
Young, friendly Ginger Tom Cat with brown collar.
Tel: 07973 380361

Birthdays

Happy 30th Birthday
Ceri Morgan
March 18th

Love, Jordan, Ampie and all the Lindsays.
xxx

HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY • HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY
SOPHIE MERCER
Happy 18th Birthday on 11th March 2010
Lots of Love, Mum, Dad, Tommy, Cameron, Sam and all the family
x x x

HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY • HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday
David Elliott
Congratulations on your 40th Birthday on 11th March 2010
All our love, Mum, Pete, Karen, Adele & family.
XXXX

Birth Notices

Congratulations to Annie and Paul on the birth of
JOSEPH
Baby Boy
24th February 2010
Lots of love, Mum, Dad, James, Sarah, Melanie, Rosie, Oliver and Aaliyah-Jane.
✗✗✗

Congratulations
Lyndon & Iuliana Haberfield
on the birth of
Michael Nicholas
"A Magnificent Baby Boy"

25th February, 2010
10lb 8ozs
Lots of love from the very proud Grandma & Grandad Haberfield
x x x x

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Cylch Meithrin converts rugby forum into funds

RUGBY fans had a rare opportunity to put their questions to leading players at a rugby forum last week, held to raise funds for the Cylch Meithrin Y Bont-faen.

Scarlets players Stephen Jones, Simon Easterby, Mark Jones and David Lyons joined Alun Wyn Bevan at The Bear in Cowbridge, for a question and answer session.

It was hosted by S4C presenter Sarra Elgan and entertainment was provided by Karen Elli.

A spokeswoman reported: "Parents, family and friends dressed up in their sequins and sports jackets, and the evening was a huge success.

"Attendees dug deep in their pockets to purchase raffle tickets and bid on auction items. A massive £7,000 was raised which will be used to improve the facilities and for upkeep costs at Cylch Meithrin Y Bont-faen.

"Among local businesses that offered support and prizes was Barclays Bank, who donated £1,500."

Organising the event was the Cylch fundraising committee – Sian Elin Jones, Karen Elli, Rhian Thomas, Louise Harris, Sarra Elgan and Catrin Howkins.

Cylch Meithrin Y Bont-faen provides Welsh medium preschool education.

For further information, contact the Cylch on 01446 776250 or visit our website www.cylchmeithrinybontfaen.co.uk.

The forum committee (left to right: Sian Elin Jones, Karen Elli, Rhian Thomas, Louise Harris, Sarra Elgan and Catrin Howkins).

Forum question time: (left to right: Stephen Jones, Simon Easterby, Mark Jones, David Lyons).

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR
Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
Tel (01656) 880418

OGMORE BY SEA Retired Residents Association enjoyed a pleasant meeting when Eric and Joy gave a film show on their recent visit to Pembrokeshire.

It was good to hear that Wendy is making progress after her recent stay in hospital.

A letter was read from Jane Hutt AM, regarding the complaint made about irregular timing of the buses around the coast.

THE Ladies Thursday Club enjoyed celebrations for St David's Day with 'Bits and Bites'.

The club is finding it difficult to engage speakers, so if anyone would like to get in touch with chairman Lilian Hodgson, suggestions or offers would be gratefully accepted.

Members send get well soon wishes to fellow member Iris Stephenson, who has undergone an operation in Princess of Wales Hospital.

SATURDAY morning coffee and chat at the church hall on March 6 had a double birthday to celebrate – Gwyneth, a regular attender whose birthday was on March 10, and a visiting lady (Sheila's mum) celebrated her 90th birthday with family and friends on March 7.!

IT is good to see Mick Arnold out and about after his recent stay in hospital.

He will soon be swinging the golf clubs again.

AT the community council meeting at the church hall on March 1, attention was brought to the 'churning up' of the 'Slip' bridleway in St Brides Major.

The Ogmore Commoners and the Vale have been informed.

Bridleway means a highway over which the public have right of way on foot, on horseback, or leading a horse, with or without the right to drive animals along the highway.

In 1968, pedal cycles were permitted to be used on Bridleways. In 1970, invalid carriages were also allowed.

THE Best Kept Village competition was discussed. St Brides Major was awarded first prize in 1993.

A plaque marking this occasion can be seen in the church hall, St Brides Major, together with a fine picture given by the late Mr Gardner of the commemoration trees (Queen Victoria Jubilee) at Pant.

A SURVEY has been made on the condition of 'sheep' gates and fences in the community.

A variety of problems requiring attention was noted and a copy will be sent to the Vale Council.

The problem is *outside* the wire

ANYONE who has lived locally for any time will welcome the realignment of Five Mile Lane, but if the MoD St Athan Training College gets the go-ahead, which many hope not, how is this going to be of any help?

In 2007, a road was promised from the M4. If Five Mile Lane is altered, it still means traffic to this site will be via St Nicholas or the 4050 at Wenvoe/through Barry to Weycock Cross.

Anything going to this site from the west has to go through the bottleneck of Llysworney.

During its construction, it will bring material from all over the country.

As mentioned in The GEM, Coun John thinks the new houses in the Vale are the thin edge of the wedge.

It is not what is planned inside the wire that people need to worry about, it's what will go on outside that will industrialise our county.

Vickey Way, Picketston

Getting to grips with bell ringing
PENLLYN & DISTRICT WI

THE monthly meeting on March 2 in Penllyn Village Hall was opened by the president, Novello Peters.

Members were informed that the darts team had reached the semi-final of the federation darts competition, but the eventual winners were Ton Pentre WI.

The Glamorgan WI Show is on August 28 and the theme this year is 'Down the Garden Path.'

Members were encouraged to take a copy of the booklet, and to plan early for their competition entries.

The branch is hoping to hold a 'Penllyn and District WI Fair', on the last Saturday in November, with craft stalls and cake stalls.

Members involved hope to meet one day a month, in the village hall, to plan, discuss and prepare for this event.

They were informed of various forthcoming federation events, and encouraged to pick up their copies of the newsletter.

Speakers for the evening were Bill Price and Peter Mail, who gave an interesting presentation on 'The Art and Science of Bell Ringing'.

They covered all aspects of campanology, including the history of bells, an explanation of how they work (complete with an intriguing model), information on how bells are rung, and the complicated art of 'change ringing'.

Their talk was supported by a fascinating DVD – 'The Craft of Bell Ringing'; afterwards the speakers answered members' questions.

The speakers were thanked by Novello Peters, and teas, coffees and Welsh cakes were then served.

The next meeting will be held in Penllyn Village Hall on April 6 at 7.30 pm, with a play by a local drama group.

New members are always warmly welcomed.

For further information, contact Novello on 01656 674191, or Marjorie on 01656 647115.

Competitors line up for 40-mile race

Ready, steady, go... for the Barry show of ultra-endurance!

by MICK McGEOCH

THIS Sunday, March 14, Jenner Park plays host to a quite remarkable athletic event – the Barry 40 Miles Track Race.

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For these athletes, a marathon simply isn't far enough – for 40 miles equates to slightly further than a marathon and a half.

In addition, 40 miles represents almost 161 laps of the track, making it a fascinating mix of physical endeavour, mental strength and strategic nous.

And there's talent aplenty, as 57 world record performances have been set in the previous 23 events, and three previous winners of the Barry race have used the event as a springboard to winning global 100 kilometre titles.

This year's field numbers 17, slightly smaller than usual. Four of the athletes are ladies, and the ages of the athletes range from 33 to 76. Nine of the runners will also be contesting the Welsh Ultra distance Championship, which is being incorporated into the event for the 21st time.

Last year's impressive winner, George Dayantis from Christchurch Runners in Hampshire returns to defend his title. George led virtually from gun to tape twelve months ago, and his winning time of 4:22:57 was remarkable in the very squally conditions.

George's potentially toughest challenge should be provided by Mark Roberts from Swansea Harriers. At 39, Mark is nine years George's junior, but he certainly has experience on his side. Mark is a former winner of both the Cardiff and Snowdonia marathons, and can also point to a 6 hour 51 minute clocking in the Comrades Ultra marathon in South Africa.

The ladies event looks a fascinating contest on paper. Sharon Gayter, from North York Moors AC won the inaugural Commonwealth 24 hour gold medal at Keswick last September, her winning distance of 140.7 miles was a personal best and ranked her No: 4 in the world for 2009.

She has been the UK No:1 lady at this distance for 13 years, and has just returned from winning the Trans-Slovenia race. However, Sharon will face a tough challenge from Emily Gelder, who in her first ultra season last year ran seven events and won the tough Dartmoor Discovery Race.

Two local ladies will also give Sharon a fight. Jen Salter, from Thornhill, has a marathon best of 3 hours 18 minutes and was the first UK lady finisher in last year's Marathon des Sables across the Sahara Desert, a race she is training for this year.

Loretta Daley from Whitchurch, has three Welsh ultra distance titles to her name, from 2006-08, and a marathon best of 3 hours 35 minutes.

Another local athlete to follow will be Gary Hyatt. Gary has completed the Barry 40 on eight occasions, and will be looking to post a new Welsh record in the over 60 section.

Gary has also completed every London Marathon since 1982, an event he will be contesting again this year. Team Hyatt, Gary and wife Pip, and daughters Kate and Sally have been great supporters of the race for many years in providing refreshments for the army of volunteers and supporters who will be lap recording and providing athletes with drinks, food, changes of clothing and all-important vocal support.

Every athlete has a tale to tell, and none more inspirational than 76-year-old Geoff Oliver. Geoff has already set three world best performances at Barry at 30 miles, 50 kilometres and 40 miles in the age 70-74 category, and now turns his attention to the 75-79 age group.

First over-75 at last year's London Marathon in a remarkable 3 hours 35 minutes, as well as subsequently setting new world best marks at 100 miles and 24 hours (111 miles) for the over 75s at Tooting in October 2009, don't bet against Geoff setting more records here!

As always, start time is 10am and admission for this amazing show of endurance is free!

GREAT OCCASION FOR TOWN AS BARRY VETS HOST FRENCH GUESTS

by PAUL HALEY

OVER the weekend that Wales played France, Barry Rugby Club played host to French guests from Beauvais and Fleury-Narbonne for an excellent celebration of rugby, friendship, and the entente cordial.

With Wales having lost to France on the Friday evening, the Saturday tournament at Barry's Reservoir Field was about trying to restore Welsh pride.

The opening game saw a youthful Fleury Veterans team play a very open running style of play for 15 minutes against Beauvais Les Independents, until the heavy conditions took their toll.

The large crowd of spectators were treated to vintage running rugby that was loudly applauded.

Fleury were eventual winners 32 points to 21.

Barry Veterans then played Fleury, hoping that fresh legs would help them beat the younger French team.

Grantley Harris soon opened the scoring for Barry with a scything run from halfway, to the delight of all the Scrummies present.

But this was not to be an easy game, with the visitors soon responding. After a few handbags being thrown, following Barry Booker making a strong tackle in the centre, the game developed into a battle, with honours even.

With time running out, Gerwyn Pugh made the tackle of the tournament with a double tackle of two men out wide to save Barry's blushes.

The final game of the day was Barry versus Beauvais, which was also played for the Nick Jones Memorial Trophy.

With some old club stalwarts turning out for Barry Veterans, even older spectator stalwarts were treated to a try fest.

Paul Delaney sold a dummy then did his former usual head-down right hand-out approach like Superman – and did a Maori side-step through four players.

Rhydian Scott unfortunately suffered every veteran's nightmare – a run in try from the halfway line.

He followed this up with the conversion, and then had to take a long slow walk back for the kick-off, keeping the referee waiting while he got his breath back!

Paul McArthur, for the first time in his career, caught a ball from the kick-off. Making his debut at prop, Clive Thomas had a blinder of a game.

Tommy Tutssel was put clean away out wide, but unselfishly slowed down to pass back inside to Paul Delaney for a knock-on.

Mike Bubbins looked for comedy value when he had a disagreement with his opposite number who looked old enough to be his grandfather.

Barry Veterans made 15 substitutions for the second half, mainly due to fatigue and the fact that the bar was open!

Barry ran out eventual winners at 19-0 to retain the Nick Jones Memorial Trophy, which was later presented by family members in the clubhouse.

Scott Nelson from the junior section did a marvellous job of running the line in front of rowdy/boisterous supporters.

Former Barry player, poacher turned gamekeeper, referee Russell Clarke did a great job all afternoon and the club much appreciated him journeying to Barry from Hampshire for the day.

Following the games and excellent catering by Ian Peters of the 4th Horseshoe, Barry Male Voice Choir raised the roof of the clubhouse by leading the communal singing, led by conductor Madamoiselle Dorothy Connell.

With songsheets to hand, the atmosphere was electric with classic rugby songs, such as *'Bread of Heaven'*, *'Calon Lan'*, followed by the Welsh national anthem and *'The Marseilles'*, sung with equal vigour by everyone present.

After such a great performance, Beauvais extended a welcome to Barry Male Voice Choir to perform in the spectacular Beauvais Cathedrale.

During an interlude, Fleury sang their club drinking song and produced more than 50 bottles of wine for everyone, from a vineyard owned by one of their players.

The camaraderie continued as all teams watched Ireland beat England in the last few minutes of their Six Nations Match.

Then, Barry Veteran Norman Pereira entertained everyone in a way that only he could.

He gave a masterclass in how to play a crowd by giving a bilingual concert that filled the dance floor.

This was a day that has already gone down in the folklore of Barry Rugby Club and in the words of a more famous Welsh poet and songwriter: "*I know, coz I was there*!"

Barry Rugby Club Veterans would like to thank sponsors: Watkins and Gunn Solicitors, Jimmy Lye & Friends, Ian Hardy, Hedley Stephenson, Richie Davies, Robertsons Solicitors, and Guy Sillett.

Special thanks to the Vale Council for a great touch – installing road signs to welcome our visitors as they arrived along Port Road. This was especially appreciated.

Thanks also go to Barry Male Voice Choir, Norman Pereira, Ian Peters, Carol and bar staff, Coors, Russell Clarke, and others.

A big thank you to all the Barry RFC Veterans organising committee, especially Charlie Chucas for his excellent chairmanship.

Star switches to rugby league

GARETH THOMAS (35), the most capped Welsh rugby union player of all time, making 100 appearances for his country, has ended months of speculation by joining the north-Wales based Super League outfit, Crusaders.

He explained: "When my old team mate Iestyn Harris called me up and talked to me about the Crusaders and what they are doing in Wrexham, it soon became apparent that it was a challenge I could not resist.

"I am really excited by the ambition of the Crusaders, and playing for someone of the experience and reputation of Brian Noble and Iestyn Harris really excites me.

"This move was not about money, but about a chance of a fresh challenge on the field, and an opportunity to promote rugby in north Wales off the field."

Gareth Thomas started his his first class career at Bridgend. He then spent a spell at Cardiff from 1997 before rejoining home town club Bridgend in 2001 and captaining them to a Welsh Premier Division title in 2003, the last Welsh Premier title before the regions were formed.

He then joined the new regional club Celtic Warriors for the 2003-04 season and when they were disbanded a year later, signed for Toulouse which he helped to a Heineken Cup Final victory in 2005 after a victory over Stade Français at Murrayfield, before returning to Wales to play for Cardiff Blues in 2007.

He also holds the record for most international caps for his country, having made 100 appearances for Wales from 1995. He surpassed the Wales try record previously held by Ieuan Evans in 2004 against Italy, but this was beaten by Shane Williams in 2008.

He was capped three times by the British and Irish Lions during their 2005 tour against New Zealand. Following injury to Brian O'Driscoll in the opening minutes of the first test against New Zealand, he was made captain for the second and third tests of the series, becoming the ninth Welsh skipper in Lions history.

Good start to season for Cadoxton Tae Kwon Do

Left to right back row: Jamie Halford, Ben Mort, Morganne Gomez Jones, Emily Stavert, Liam Rees, Jon Hawkins. Middle row: Matthew Bennett, Thomas Haysham, Lucy Newman, Charlotte Sullivan. Front row: Hayley Mattey, Ollie Tipples and Morgan Stavert Hawkins. Missing are Bradley Halford and Morgan Harrhy.

RECENTLY, the Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do attended the first of a series of five Welsh masters' tournaments hosted by Mal Johns of WOMA.

Points are awarded to the first four places in each category, resulting in a grand champion at the end of the series.

Young Morgan Stavert Hawkins got the club off to a good start, taking second in point and second in the continuous sparring. In only his second competition, Ollie Tipples came away with a creditable third in point and second in continuous sparring.

Ever-improving Lucy Newman was first in the point and second in the continuous sparring. Her training partners, Hayley Mattey and Charlotte Sullivan both went on to take third in the point sparring.

Showing his determination, Thomas Haysham took first in a hard-fought continuous bout and third in the point sparring. Improving on last year, Matthew Bennett was first in the continuous and second in the point sparring.

Taking her opponents by surprise, Emily Stavert came away with first in continuous and second in point sparring. Although Liam Rees missed a lot of squad training sessions, he went on to take first in continuous and third in the point sparring.

Having to fight up a category in the boys continuous sparring, Bradley Halford just missed out on a medal, but went on to take first in the point sparring section.

Morgan Gomez Jones just missed out on a medal position in the point, but she went on to take second in continuous sparring. The inexperienced Ben Mort fought his way through to take first in point sparring.

Having moved up to the men's sections, Jamie Halford took second in both the men's continuous and point sparring, with Jon Hawkins beating Jamie to first in continuous sparring.

The club are now in serious training for the world games, which are being held in Ireland during August, and are actively seeking sponsors for this event.

For further information and training time, telephone 01446 406372.

Cowbridge man is Canada coach

A FORMER pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive School has been appointed to a senior coaching post with Canadian rugby.

Dustin Hopkins, who has been appointed to senior coaching post with Canadian rugby.

Dustin Hopkins is now the coach development manager for Rugby Canada – a new role created by the International Rugby Board (IRB) to improve coaching standards.

In his post, he will be working with Canada's high performance director, the former Cardiff player and coach, Geraint John to identify and train coaches.

For the new post, Dustin will move from his home in Calgary to a new base in Vancouver Island.

We welcome your sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

St Hilary's David wins Hereford's big race

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

DAVID PRICHARD (19) who hails from St Hilary near Cowbridge, landed the principal race – the £7,514 Jumprite Handicap Hurdle – at Hereford last week on *Bella Haze*, an eight-year-old bay mare owned, bred and trained by Peterston-super-Ely farmer Phil Dando.

David Prichard, who rode Bella Haze at Hereford, is seen here on Mountain Lily, jumping the last fence on the way to winning the Members' race at Brecon in 2008.

Picture by Sedgmore Sporting Prints.

Backed from 6-1 to 4-1, *Bella Haze*, who was winning for the fifth time under rules, made all the running just as she did when winning under her young rider at 20-1 at Ludlow earlier in the year.

Bella Haze, who may run next at the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival meeting, won by one and a quarter lengths from *Mister Pous* ridden by Ogmore's Nick Williams.

Kenfig Hill's John Flint, who is enjoying his best ever season since he took out a full licence in 2004/05, saddled his 13th winner of the season when his *Raquel White* took the opener at Ludlow on Thursday.

Raquel White, who was ridden by his son Rhys, beat the Aberthin-trained horse *Hucking Hero*, ridden by the legendary AP McCoy.

Cowbridge squash teams enjoy mixed fortunes on court

FOLLOWING their championship set back at Newport the previous week, Cowbridge A Bar 44 squash team bounced back to the top of South Wales Division Two East B with a fantastic 4-1 win against championship rivals Caldicot B.

Skipper Nick Guard was forced to bring in a couple of reserves to replace A team regulars Richard Ford (unavailable for selection) and Niall Sloan (injured).

The B team No1 and No4, Simon Payne and Chris Ranger respectively, stepped up to the plate and scored points for the cause.

Ranger managed to level his match at 1-1 but after a hard-fought third, losing 7-9, finally went down 1-3, while Payne played in a real nail-biter taking a 2-0 lead (9-7, 9-7) before losing a tie-break third.

He then finished strongly 9-2 in the fourth to post an excellent 3-1 win.

Garfield Leask dropped the first game 5-9, but settled into a consistent rhythm to take the final three by the same margin (9-4) at No3.

Jon Bisson repeated his previous week's 3-0 performance with another at No2 and didn't appear to be in any trouble after taking the first game in a 10-9 tie-break.

So, with the match won there was less pressure on Nick Guard to win, but points gained would put more distance between his team and the opposition.

He was 0-2 down but came back to win 3-2 (3-9, 9-10, 9-1, 9-4 9-4) – a great result that see the As back on top by three points from Caldicot and five points ahead of now third-placed Newport.

The B team however, continued their slide down the South Glamorgan Division One table with another 2-3 reverse – this time at Barry (a team they had beaten 5-0 earlier in the year).

Club skipper Russ Watts should be 'put out to grass' after his performance at No5, easily handing all the points to the younger Paddy Tyler.

Colin Baxter worked himself into a 2-0 lead but could not hold on and went down in the fifth.

Chris Ranger found himself 2-2 at No3 but could not find enough to secure the fifth and also went down 2-3.

Fortunately for the Bs good points were scored at Nos 2 and 1 with both Paul Reynish and Simon Payne posting 3-1 wins (match score 10-15). The Bs are now in a relegation place but have a game in hand with bottom-placed St Mellons – a must win fixture.

WELSH MASTERS

Several Cowbridge and Vale squash players featured in the Welsh Masters Squash Championships in Swansea last weekend. The event decides Welsh honours for players aged 35 and upwards in five-year categories.

Highlight of the weekend saw Carolyn Guard from St Nicholas, now playing for Barry ladies, taking the over-40 title for the second year running, defeating Swansea's Joanne Williams 10-8 in the fifth set in a match lasting 1 hr and 20 minutes.

In the men's over-50 category for the first time Mike Workman from Ystradowen (seeded number two) faced the number one seed Jon Evans, now based in the north of England. The result went with the form book with Evans winning 3-0.

The Cowbridge men's team numbers one and two, Nick Guard and Jon Bisson respectively, both featured heavily in the men's over-45 category with Jon Bisson being defeated 3-0 by Ian Fenner-Evans of Caldicot in the semi-final, and Nick Guard losing 3-1 to Mark Huxtable of Newport in the quarter-final but not before defeating the number four seed, Del Hopkins from Wrexham, a few hours before.

RW/NG

'NEEDLESS' RED CARD NEARLY COSTS DINAS AGAINST TON PENTRE

***RIGHT:** The Dinas Powys first team are pictured with two sides from their under-7s age group; the under-7s entertained the spectators at half-time.*

THIS certainly was an eventful match for Dinas forward Joe Hinds – one minute the hero, scoring two goals to help the home side to a comfortable lead, and the next the villain, by getting himself needlessly sent off for a second bookable offence when they were seemingly cruising to a good win against a side in fourth position in the league.

It took the visitors just five minutes to get on the score-sheet, when a good right wing cross was left by a Dinas defender. As the ball was put back across the area, Lloyd Toghill had the easiest of chances to head past Peter Blaine in the Dinas goal.

To their credit, the home side came back immediately with a Paul Carro shot saved by Leighton James in the Ton goal and Anthony Roberts heading wide from a Mark Dunford cross.

The Dinas pressure started to tell on the Ton defence and when they conceded a free-kick 35 yards out, Jacob Rudman found Lloyd Davies on the edge of the six-yard box and he made no mistake heading past the keeper for the equaliser.

Dinas were starting to play with some confidence, passing the ball around well and good play by Paul Carro and Mark Dunford gave Carro the chance to shoot with the keeper pushing the ball away from goal.

A poor clearance by the Ton keeper gave Mark Dunford a chance, but he was grateful to his defence for getting him out of trouble.

Dunford was causing the visiting defence problems and he saw another shot blocked before Dinas took a deserved lead. Again it was Dunford the provider, this time with a pass finding Joe Hinds whose shot from 20 yards found the back of the net.

The home side increased their lead just five minutes later, as young full-back Tom Hutton got past his marker before crossing for Hinds to head in from eight yards to send Dinas in a half-time with a deserved 3-1 lead.

At half-time the crowd were entertained with a mini football game by two sides from Dinas under-7s and at next week's game against Afan Lido, the crowd can look forward to another when Dinas Wolves will provide the entertainment.

In the second half, the home side continued where they left off with Paul Carro shooting over, but they were grateful to their defence when a dangerous cross into the area was cleared.

Dinas got the fourth goal their play deserved and again it was Tom Hutton the provider, his header finding Mark Dunford who made no mistake from 15 yards.

More good passing forced Ton to concede a corner and Hinds headed over from five yards when he had a clear chance for his hat trick.

Wayne Antoniazzi had a good chance to get one back for the visitors and Dinas were grateful to keeper Peter Blaine for keeping their lead intact.

Then came a moment of madness from Joe Hinds when he attempted to stop Ton taking a quick free-kick. He was given his second yellow card and sent off.

This was just the incentive the visitors needed and Dinas were forced on the defensive. They held out until Lloyd Toghill got his second of the game, hooking the ball in from eight yards.

Welsh League Division One

DINAS POWYS	**4**
TON PENTRE	**3**

A couple of minutes from time, Ton were awarded a corner with Leon Young heading in at the near post to give the home side an anxious few minutes, but they managed to hold out for all three points.

This Saturday, Dinas entertain another team from the upper reaches of the table, with Afan Lido the visitors in another stern test of Dinas' revival, kick-off 2.30pm.

Squad: 1 Peter Blaine, 2 Tom Hutton, 3 Owain Adams, 4 Lloyd Davies(1), 5 Anthony Roberts 6 Rhodri Foote, 7 Ricki Morgan, 8 Jacob Rudman, 9 Joe Hinds(2), 10 Mark Dunford (1), 11 Paul Carro, 12 Karl Steele, 14 Steve Provis, 15 Josh Reffell, 16 Nathan Hosgood.

For news and fixtures see the club's web site: www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk

MW

Ladies meeting arranged

LLANTWIT MAJOR Bowls Club (men's section) are holding their pre-season meeting on Thursday, March 18 at 7pm in the bowls pavilion.

All members are urged to attend, new members are welcomed and free coaching is available.

This an important season for the club as it is celebrating its 50th year as a club and many events have been arranged.

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155/70R13 Bridgestone B250	£41.20	£78	£150	155/70R13 Avon ZT5	£35.22	£65	£125	155/70R13 Tenyal	£28.22	£50	£95
165/70R13 Bridgestone B250	£46.26	£87	£165	165/70R13 Avon ZT5	£37.41	£70	£135	165/70R13 Tenyal	£29.34	£55	£105
175/70R14 Bridgestone B250	£59.46	£112	£210	175/70R14 Avon ZT5	£47.88	£90	£170	175/70R14 Tenyal	£33.60	£62	£115
175/65R14 Bridgestone B250	£52.80	£89	£170	175/65R14 Avon ZT5	£40.94	£75	£140	175/65R14 Tenyal	£33.12	£60	£115

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Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
185/60R14 Bridgestone EH300	£56.98	£99	£190	185/60R14 Avon ZV3	£46.00	£90	£170	185/60R14 Tenyal	£34.12	£65	£120
185/65R14 Bridgestone B250	£65.40	£120	£230	185/65R14 Avon ZV3	£50.11	£95	£185	185/65R14 Tenyal	£35.72	£67	£130
185/65R15 Bridgestone EH300	£73.60	£132	£255	185/65R15 Avon ZV3	£53.86	£102	£199	185/65R15 Tenyal	£37.21	£70	£135
195/65R15 Bridgestone B250	£82.14	£108	£205	195/65R15 Avon ZV3	£60.41	£95	£185	195/65R15 Tenyal	£38.47	£73	£140

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Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
195/50R15 Bridgestone EH300	£53.98	£98	£189	195/50R15 Avon ZV3	£46.07	£85	£160	195/50R15 Federal	£37.81	£70	£130
195/60R15 Bridgestone EH300	£75.46	£135	£260	195/60R15 Avon ZV5	£59.11	£115	£220	195/60R15 Maxxis	£43.47	£80	£150
195/65R15 Bridgestone EH300	£83.79	£110	£210	195/65R15 Avon ZV5	£52.87	£99	£190	195/65R15 Federal	£43.46	£80	£150
205/55R16 Bridgestone EH300	£72.86	£125	£240	205/55R16 Avon ZV5	£62.44	£120	£230	205/55R16 Federal	£52.33	£99	£190

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Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
205/50R16 Bridgestone EH300	£100.94	£195	£375	205/50R16 Avon ZV5	£73.83	£140	£270	205/50R16 Hero	£46.37	£89	£170
205/55R16 Bridgestone EH300	£77.31	£145	£275	205/55R16 Avon ZV5	£65.83	£120	£230	205/55R16 Hero	£48.37	£90	£170
225/45R17 Bridgestone RD050	£103.94	£199	£390	225/45R17 H Avon ZV5	£86.83	£165	£320	225/45R17 Hero	£54.71	£100	£190
225/40R18 H Bridgestone RD050	£132.40	£250	£480	225/40R18 H Avon ZV5	£101.44	£195	£375	225/40R18 Hero	£64.98	£120	£230

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06 **56 VOLVO XC90 2.4 D5 AWD (facelift) SE Geartronic AUTO.** In metallic silver with full black leather, colour satellite navigation, phone preparation, electric heated seats, climate control, parking sensors, 7 seats, only 58,722 miles **£19,995**

06 **56 BMW 2.0TD 320D SE 4-dr Saloon.** In Arctic grey with anthracite interior, automatic air con, upgraded alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, only 41,655 miles, fsh **£13,995**

06 **56 BMW 116i SE 5-dr** in sparkling graphite met with full Boston beige leather interior, comfort pack, cd, climate control, alloy wheels, reversing sensors, auxiliary I-pod connection, only 19,950 miles interior titanium trim, auto lights and auto wipers **£11,995**

05 **05 MERCEDES Benz 1.8 SLK 200 Compressor Auto 2-dr Convertible** in Tellur silver, black leather interior, climate control, multi function steering wheel, CD, alloys, only 61,000 miles, fsh **£16,995**

05 **05 MERCEDES Benz M-Class 2.7 TD ML270 CDi Automatic 5-dr Station Wagon.** In Brilliant silver with Orion grey leather interior, climate control, Bluetooth phone prep, privacy glass, heated seats, rear parking sensors, only 52,975 miles **£15,995**

04 **54 MERCEDES Benz CL500 5 litre 2-dr Auto coupe.** In tanzanite blue with java leather interior with BOSE sound system, AMG body styling, electric sunroof, only 48,245 miles **£19,995**

01 **51 JAGUAR S-Type 3.0 V6 4-dr Saloon Automatic.** In Pacific blue with cashmere beige full leather interior, climate control, CD, electric seats, rear parking sensors, only 55,810 miles **£5,995**

SPORTS

07 **07 HONDA Civc 2.0i V-Tec Type R GT 3-dr Hatchback** in Milano red with half suede sports seats, climate control, 18 inch alloy wheels, alarm, immobiliser, only 38,930 miles **£12,995**

06 **56 HONDA Civic 1.8i V-tec Type-S 3-dr Hatchback.** In alabaster silver with alcantara/suede interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 24,405 miles **£10,495**

06 **06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDi 2.0 (140) 5-dr** in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles **£9,995**

06 **06 AUDI A3 1.9TDi Special Edition 3-Dr Hatchback.** In brilliant black with module black cloth interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, full Audi service history, one owner, only 55,390 miles **£9,495**

06 **06 FORD Focus 1.8TDCi Sport 5-dr Hatchback.** In panther black with dark flint interior, CD, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 55,315 miles **£7,495**

06 **55 TOYOTA Rav-4 2.2 D-4D T180 5-dr Station Wagon** in cadmium green with full Faro dark grey leather, colour touch screen satellite navigation, electric heated seats, blue tooth phone prep, cruise control, sunroof, dual climate control, rear parking sensors, only 50,730 miles **£14,995**

06 **55 AUDI A3 2.0T FSi 5-dr Sport Back** in Avus silver with matrix cloth interior. BOSE speaker system, 17 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, climate conrol, cd, only 39,280 miles **£11,995**

05 **05 MINI 1.6 Cooper S (Chilli Pack).** Black, black leather interior, a/c, alloys, cd, rear parking sensors, only 49,390 miles **£10,995**

04 **04 PORSCHE Carrera 3.6 Convertible** in lapis blue with metropole leather, bose speaker upgrade, starlight navigation, phone system, cruise control, trip computer, heated seats, sports exhaust systemm, full Porsche service history, hard top, only 42,761 miles **£29,995**

04 **54 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GTi 2.0T FSI (200ps) 3-dr.** In reflex silver with interlagos interior, climate control, traction control, tyre pressure monitor, trip computer, sports seats, alloy wheels, only 69,192 miles **£9,995**

04 **54 MG TF 1.8 135 Convertible.** In ignition blue with anthracite Sebring interior, alloy wheels, cd player, alarm and immobiliser only 27,100 miles **£4,995**

04 **04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, climate control, alloys, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles **£5,995**

04 **53 LAND ROVER Freelander 1.8S 3-Dr Hard Top.** In Bonatti grey with black dune interior, glass roof panels, air con, alarm, traction control system, only 54,460 miles **£5,495**

03 **53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-door Convertible.** In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles **£4,495**

02 **52 VOLKSWAGEN Golf TDi (130) 5-dr Hatchback.** In Reflex silver with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, climate control, CD changer, only 68,990 miles **£5,995**

02 **02 MG ZS 2.5 180.** In anthracite black, with monaco ash interior with red inserts, alloy wheels, a/c, cd, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, alarm and immobiliser, only 62,310 miles **£2,995**

01 **Y AUDI TT Roadster 1.8T Quattro (225)** in met silver with full granite leather, 18" alloy wheels, heated seats, trip computer, cruise control + climate control, cd multi-changer with BOSE stereo upgrade, only 63,010 miles **£8,495**

00 **X TVR Tuscan 4 litre 360bhp.** In crystal topaz pearl blue with portland grey leather interior, cd, 18" spyder alloy wheels, e/windows, cat 1 alarm, e/mirrors, a/c, substantial workshop portfolio, supreme example, only 36,000 miles **£12,995**

99 **T BMW Z3 1.9 2-dr Convertible.** In Green with green leather interior, colour coded bumpers, CD, alloy wheels, electric hood, only 51,300 miles **£5,995**

FAMILY

06 **56 TOYOTA Corolla T2 Colour Collection, 1.4 5-dr Hatchback.** In eclipse black with silver fleck interior, a/c, alloys, colour coded side skirts, audio controls on steering wheel, one owner, only 32,415 miles **£7,995**

06 **06 FORD Focus C-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5-dr MPV** in tonic blue with dark flint interior, cd, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 31,000 miles **£7,995**

06 **06 FORD Focus 1.6 115 Sport 5-dr Hatchback.** In Aquarius blue with Humy flint interior, air con, alloy wheels, CD, colour coded bumpers, immobiliser, only 36,600 miles **£6,495**

05 **55 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique** in met platinum silver with ruche cloth interior, auto lights, auto wipers, air con, cd, clour coded bumpers, only 16,380 miles **£5,795**

04 **54 MG ZT-T 1.8T 160 5-dr Estate** in royal blue with Monaco ash leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, roof rails, alarm, only 32,000 miles **£5,995**

04 **54 PEUGEOT 206 SW 2.0 HDi 90 XSi 5-dr Estate.** China blue, black/grey merlin interior, a/c, body coloured bumpers, cd, alloys, only 45,796 miles **£5,995**

04 **04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon.** Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles **£6,495**

04 **04 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCi 120 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback.** In metallic silver, with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, CD, colour coded bumpers, air con, only 42,955 miles **£5,995**

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02 **52 AUDI A4 1.9 TDi SE.** In denim blue with phoenix blue upholstery, climate control, cd, alloys, only 26,075 miles **£7,995**

01 **51 VOLKSWAGEN Golf S 1.4 5-dr Hatchback.** In blue with dark interior, air con, CD, colour coded bumpers, service history, only 54,500 miles **£3,795**

01 **Y BMW 3 Series 1.9i 316 4-dr Saloon.** In bright red with dark interior, electric windows, colour coded bumpers, driver and passenger airbags, only 49,125 miles **£4,295**

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07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Expression 3-dr** in platinum silver met with voile interior, cd, air con, alloy wheels, remote central locking, elec windows, alarm and immobiliser, only 4,747 miles **£6,995**

06 **06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback.** In platinum silver with grey interior, alloy wheels, steering wheel mounted audio controls, colour coded bumpers, CD, only 19,860 miles **£5,995**

06 **55 TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 VVT-i Sport** in carbon quartz met with dark flint interior, alloy wheels, cd, remote central locking, alarm and immobiliser, elecctric windows, only 51,300 miles **£4,995**

05 **55 FORD KA Luxury 1.3 3-dr Hatchback.** In Tonic blue with ebony leather interior, air con, quick clear screen, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 16,980 miles **£4,995**

05 **05 MINI 1.6 One (salt) 3-dr Hatchback.** In pure silver with anthracite interior, 6 CD changer, automatic dipping rear-view mirror, panoramic roof, body coloured bumpers, only 39,600 miles **£7,995**

04 **04 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cdm alloy wheels, alarm, only 43,895 miles **£6,495**

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04 **04 ROVER Streetwise 1.4 16v 3-dr** in trophy yellow with sebring half leather interior, cd, roof rails, rear spoiler, alarm and immobiliser, only 41,590 miles **£3,495**

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02 **52 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback** in met silver with dark interior, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 48,060 miles **£3,495**

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00 **X RENAULT Megane 1.4 16v Sport Alize 2-dr Coupe.** In Monaco blue with blue interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, immobiliser, only 62,000 miles **£2,495**

L **93 AUSTIN Mini 1.3 Sprite 2-dr Saloon Automatic.** In night fire red with grey interior, all original specification, only 47,215 miles **£1,995**

07 **07 HONDA Civc 2.0i V-Tec Type R GT 3-dr Hatchback** in Milano red with half suede sports seats, climate control, 18 inch alloy wheels, alarm, immobiliser, only 38,930 miles **£12,995**

06 **56 HONDA Civic 1.8i V-tec Type-S 3-dr Hatchback.** In alabaster silver with alcantara/suede interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 24,405 miles **£10,495**

06 **55 AUDI A3 2.0T FSi 5-dr Sport Back** in Avus silver with matrix cloth interior. BOSE speaker system, 17 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, climate conrol, cd, only 39,280 miles **£11,995**

06 **06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDi 2.0 (140) 5-dr** in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles **£9,995**

06 **06 FORD Focus 1.8TDCi Sport 5-dr Hatchback.** In panther black with dark flint interior, CD, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 55,315 miles **£7,495**

06 **06 FORD Focus 1.6 115 Sport 5-dr Hatchback.** In Aquarius blue with Humy flint interior, air con, alloy wheels, CD, colour coded bumpers, immobiliser, only 36,600 miles **£6,495**

07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Expression 3-dr** in platinum silver met with voile interior, cd, air con, alloy wheels, remote central locking, elec windows, alarm and immobiliser, only 4,747 miles **£6,995**

06 **55 TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 VVT-i Sport** in carbon quartz met with dark flint interior, alloy wheels, cd, remote central locking, alarm and immobiliser, elecctric windows, only 51,300 miles **£4,995**

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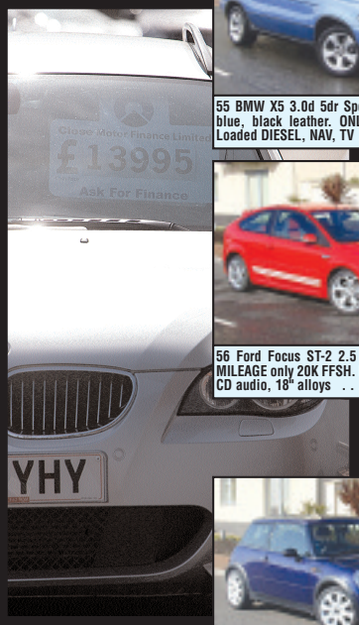

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05 Peugeot 206 SW 1.4 HDI S 5dr Est (a/c) Silver met, DIESEL compact estate. ONLY £35 per year Road Tax 60+ MPG, pas£4,995

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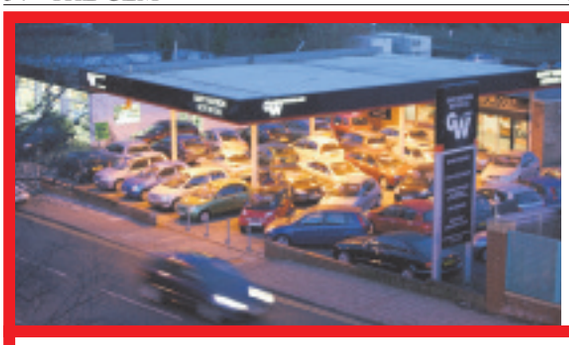

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GEM sport

New-look back row may hold key to unlock green fortress

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

ON January 28, 1882, Wales played their first ever international rugby match at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, whitewashing Ireland with four tries (two converted) in what contemporary accounts described as a heated affair – ironic considering it was billed as a 'friendly' taster the year before the Four Nations formally came into being!

It set the pattern for all future clashes between these two close, but proudly competitive Celtic cousins, with precious little quarter given on the field, but intense rivalry replaced by warm camaraderie off it, once the final whistle went!

The result has been some memorable moments over the 127 years and 112 meetings since then, which have seen Wales go on to record 62 wins to Ireland's 46, with six matches drawn.

With rare exceptions, they have been close-fought in every sense of the word – with often only a few points separating the two teams at the end, as typified by last year's cliff-hanger at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, when only Stephen Jones' agonisingly short penalty attempt in the dying seconds handed the Irish a 17-15 victory and their first Grand Slam for 61 years.

The year before, it was Wales who edged the honours by 16-12 on the way to their second Grand Slam in three years (in their 2005 Grand Slam year, the result was 32-20).

However, despite this and Wales' dominating record overall in terms of victories between the two sides, with 1,317 points scored compared to Ireland's 1,189, they have managed to scrape only three wins out of 11 in the last nine years, beginning with a 23-19 success in 2000.

It is a sobering thought for Welsh fans ahead of this weekend's 115th clash in Dublin, that statistics show the rest of the decade firmly belongs to the Irish, who have prevailed in some notable encounters, including five in a row from 2001 (36-6), 2002 (54-10), 2003 (25-24), and 2004 (36-15).

Not forgetting, of course, the convincing 31-5 result in 2006 that dashed any hopes of a back-to-back Welsh Grand Slam.

So the Welsh camp can be under no illusions about the scale of the fierce challenge that awaits them at the Croke Park fortress, on Saturday.

Ireland saw their dream of a historic back-to-back Grand Slam crushed by the title-hungry French, but have since got their Triple Crown bid back on track and will be confident of continuing their recent record against a Wales side, chronically prone to error and still shorn of key first choice personnel.

That is not to say, of course, that this undoubtedly gifted but frustrating young Welsh squad are not fully capable of making a mockery of statistics. Man for man, the gap between the two sides does not yawn wide.

However, as Wales have already been reminded to their cost in this year's Six Nations, individual talent by itself is not enough to prevail against the big boys in the playground – unless part of a concentrated and cohesive team effort, underlined by precise, error-free and disciplined application for the whole of 80 minutes.

The Welsh players now have just two opportunities left in this current campaign to prove they can put a complete team performance together, free of those persistent lapses in concentration that have stymied their displays so far.

If not, they will find the battle-hardened Irish every bit as unforgiving as the French – and an improving Italy would then relish the opportunity to cause yet another upset at the Millennium Stadium in a potential tussle for the dreaded Wooden Spoon.

As the cliche goes, there is still much to play for, and faced with a continuing casualty list, head coach Warren Gatland has had some hard thinking to do – particularly in the pack, before announcing the team to face Ireland.

His problems have been compounded by injuries to Mike Phillips and skipper Ryan Jones, who is replaced by Gloucester captain Gareth Delve, hitherto not even in the Six Nations squad. Luke Charteris reclaims his second row spot, while Matthew Rees returns as hooker.

Skippering the team at open side, in Ryan Jones' absence is Martyn Williams, who with Delve and Jonathan Thomas will be taking on the formidable Irish trio, in a back row contest that may well have a decisive bearing on the outcome.

WALES TEAM:
Lee Byrne; Leigh Halfpenny, James Hook, Jamie Roberts, Shane Williams; Stephen Jones, Richie Rees; Paul James, Matthew Rees, Adam Jones, Bradley Davies, Luke Charteris, Jonathan Thomas, Martyn Williams (captain), Gareth Delve.
Replacements: *Huw Bennett, Rhys Gill, Ian Gough, Sam Warburton, Dwayne Peel, Andrew Bishop, Tom Shanklin.*

Resurgent Town win sixth on the bounce

COWBRIDGE Town seniors returned to action on Saturday for their first game in three weeks, looking to extend their rich vein of form over second-placed Cadoxton Imps at Barry Sports Centre.

Injuries and availability left Town with a bare 11 for what seemed a daunting fixture. Only one regular defender, left-back Dan Hughes ,was available, and so manager Ed Jones filled in at centre-back. Midfield regular Gethin Still dropped back to take his place beside him and Wyndham Howells, a goalkeeper by trade, played at right-back.

Cowbridge started brightly and passed the ball with their usual panache but created little in the way of clear chances against a well-organised Imps' defence.

Town would eventually find a way through, and it arrived from a set-piece.

An out-swinging corner was flicked on by Nic Vaile at the near post and the ball fell at the feet of midfielder Matthew Pound, who finished well into the far corner.

Town continued to play well throughout the rest of the first half, but were unable to add to their tally before half-time.

The second half began in much the same manner as the first, with Town dominating possession and playing neat, attractive football.

Town were unable to capitalise until striker Jack Gavin was felled in the box. Nic Vaile stepped up and blasted home the penalty in emphatic fashion via the underside of the bar to hand Town a much more comfortable two-goal cushion.

Town continued to play the majority of the football and pressed for a third to put the game to bed.

Tim Howard, who had a great game on the left-wing, came closest but put his shot over the bar after a neat pull-back into his path.

The third goal arrived on the counter-attack courtesy of Jack Gavin, who lobbed the on-rushing 'keeper from 20 yards to confirm the three points and extend the winning run to six games.

Congratulations to the entire Town defence on their first clean-sheet of the season. Gethin Still was outstanding, deputising at centre-back, and Ed Jones was his ever-reliable self.

Full-backs Howells and Hughes were also exemplary at the back.

With more than half the season still to be played, Town find themselves with perhaps a late chance to push for promotion after a shaky start to the season.

Rivalries will be renewed with Cadoxton this Saturday in the divisional cup, with a place in the semi-finals at stake.

Final score 3-0 to Cowbridge.

JG

'Try out a new sport' says local bowling club

THE outdoor season starts on April 1 at Cowbridge Bowling Club.

Plans for the season will be outlined at the pre-season meeting to be held at the club pavilion on March 17 at 7.30pm.

A spokesman said: "Potential new members are welcome to attend this meeting. The club is keen to recruit ladies and gentlemen who have been active in other sports and who enjoy the competitive element.

"The club is fortunate to have a number of qualified coaches tho will only be too pleased to pass on their knowledge.

"Why not come to one of the free taster sessions? You can then decide if you would like to join one of the short coaching sessions."

For further information contact Michael Bradley on 01446 773289.

Preservation the name of the game?

IT'S all very well the Welsh rugby team giving a 20-point start to some sides, but to do it against the formidable French was suicidal.

It begs the question just how does it happen? I think I can remember from when I was playing rugby, at a fairly high level, and I don't think things have changed that much since then.

You are threatened by one or two of the opposition and your first instinct is self-preservation – ie get rid of the ball asap – and transfer the ball to another of your side who then has the problem!

It's called 'self-preservation' and no amount of coaching is going to alter that (unless your name is JPR!).

It is a shame that this attractive side is not going to win as many games as it should, but that's the way it is.

Ian M Jewell, Cowbridge

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